

# North Sea oil promises trade balance this year

Rapid increases being made in output of North Sea oil are expected to put Britain's trade in oil in balance this year, the Government announced yesterday. By 1980 the country should be self-sufficient in oil, eliminating an import bill which last year amounted to almost £4,000m. Total possible estimated reserves in oil discoveries in British waters have risen from 2,290m to 2,500m tonnes. The Government expects revenues of £4,250m a year throughout the 1980s.

## Production making rapid increase

by Roger Vielvoye

North Sea oil production made another spectacular jump during March as an average of 20,000 barrels a day from the 32,000 barrels produced daily during the previous month. And according to Dr J. Dickson, Minister of State for Energy, output was running at 50,000 barrels a day by the end of the month.

Output in March was at a rate equivalent to 35m tonnes a year—well over a third of the country's current oil consumption. Dr Mabon said all the indicators suggested that Britain would achieve its upgraded target of producing between 40m and 45m tonnes this year. At about £14 a barrel, this would be worth £2,500m.

At a press conference to introduce the Government's latest estimates of oil and gas resources, Dr Mabon said the rapid increases in North Sea oil output should put the country's trade in oil in balance this year and produce a trade surplus in 1978. The prospects from the North Sea were bright. The balance of payments benefits in 1976, he said, reached about £1,000m and the Government was beginning to receive a small but growing income from royalties.

During 1975 the net oil import bill was almost £4,000m despite North Sea production of about 5,700m. Dr Mabon said the import bill would be eliminated completely by 1980 when North Sea production would make Britain self-sufficient.

Revenue from taxes and royalties on both oil and gas would rise to a total of £5,500m by 1980. By this date companies would be paying large amounts of petroleum revenue tax (PRT) and the Government could expect to receive about

£4,250m a year revenue throughout the 1980s, compared with previous estimates of £3,500m a year.

According to the Government's estimates, output from the North Sea next year will be between 60m and 70m tonnes, rising to 80m-95m tonnes in 1979, to 90m-110m tonnes in 1980 and 100m-120m tonnes in 1981.

"We remain on target for self-sufficiency in 1980 with last year's delays being more than made up by a faster than expected build-up of production over the coming two years," Dr Mabon said.

Two fields, British Petroleum's Forties and the Occidental Group's Piper, continue to produce the bulk of Britain's oil. Forties production averaged about 405,000 barrels a day during March. Output from the fourth production platform on the field began earlier this week and BP expects supplies to peak at 500,000 barrels a day by the autumn.

Output from the Piper field has grown even faster. During March it averaged 115,000 barrels a day but the figure has jumped to 190,000 barrels a day so far in April from only seven extremely prolific wells.

The Government report says that total possible reserves of oil in present discoveries in British waters have risen by 210m tonnes to 2,500m tonnes. Total estimated reserves for these waters remain between 3,000m to 4,500m tonnes, though the higher end of the range now includes an allowance for areas not yet designated but expected to fall to Britain.

Development of the Oil and Gas Resources of the United Kingdom 1977, a report to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Energy, (Stationery Office, £2.25).



Work being completed in Oslo on the valve to stop the oil escape from Bravo.

## Repair team spends five hours on platform before being forced off

From Craig Seton

Stavanger, April 26

A repair team spent a precious five hours on board the Bravo oil platform in the Norwegian Ekofisk field today, making the first significant progress towards controlling the rogue well which blew out last Friday.

They were taken off again when the wind dropped and dangerous fumes built up. It was learnt late tonight that the team succeeded in bolting on to the riser pipe a blow-out preventer valve which was originally half-secured, but that the valve itself was not completely assembled.

The oil slick from the Ekofisk disaster is now in two sections, a thick portion three miles long and three miles wide, surrounded by a thin film of oil 10 miles wide and 15 to 20 miles long. Two skimming vessels which tried to collect some of the oil today ran into technical difficulties this afternoon, and only 20 tons of the estimated 12,000 tons spilled into the sea was reported to have been collected.

Yesterday's high winds and heavy seas calmed overnight, and shortly after dawn the repair team, believed to consist of six men, started their preventive work on the riser pipe.

The team, led by Mr Paul "Red" Adair, which has made its reputation for capping oil gushers throughout the world, was among those who went on board. Two of the others were Mr Asgar "Boots" Hansen and Mr Richard Hareberg, of the "blow-out" team from Houston, Texas, led by Mr Paul "Red" Adair, which has made its reputation for capping oil gushers throughout the world.

As the weather change forced the men to halt their work, production at the two other platforms one and a half miles away, which had resumed early this morning, shut down again as a safety measure.

This afternoon Captain Oyvind Holleiken of the fire-fighting vessel Seaway Falcon, which has been standing alongside Bravo pumping water aboard to keep the escaping oil cool, told me in a ship-to-shore radio link of the day's activities.

"We had a meeting on Chocow and 'Red' Adair's men think they can shut off the flow tomorrow," he said. "They should know—they have done it hundreds of times before."

Early this morning we stopped spraying and the men went aboard Bravo. Some equipment in baskets was put on by crane and we could see the men working and cleaning up around the blow-out pipe.

"Then the wind dropped and oil started falling back on to the platform, so they had to come off. But things are looking good."

## High-speed trains in £57m British Rail boost

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

A further boost for British Rail's commuter and Inter-City services was announced yesterday by Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport. He has authorized investment of £33m in 250 new coaches for the Southern Region's inner commuter services, and £24m for 14 high-speed trains for the Western Region's Inter-City route to Exeter, Plymouth and Clevedon.

Smoother and quieter than the present stock, much of which is nearly 30 years old, the electric commuter coaches for the Southern Region will introduce new levels of comfort into what has been described as "cattle-truck conditions". They are the first part of an important programme under which all the Southern Region's 600 inner commuter coaches will be replaced by the mid-1980s. They will enter service on the Waterloo lines to Clapham, Croydon, and so on between 1978 and 1980.

The high-speed trains, similar to those already operating to Bristol and South Wales and Newcastle upon Tyne and Edinburgh, will cut journey times from Paddington to Exeter by 30 minutes and to Penzance by more than an hour. Frequency will also be increased from 15 to 19 trains a day each way when they begin entering service next year.

Announcing the decision, Mr Rodgers said: "Approval of this building programme will mean valuable jobs, because it will help the railways in planning a steady flow of work at workshops in Crewe, Derby, and York. For the rail commuters and Inter-City travellers it means a faster, more reliable and more comfortable journey."

Both the commuter and Inter-City investments are within British Rail's investment limits of £25m a year.

Scottish improvements: British Rail Scotland has been given Government approval for a £12.3m track and signalling improvement scheme for Edinburgh and the East of Scotland (the Press Association reports).

Under it 35 signal boxes will be replaced with a modern system controlled from Edinburgh. There are also to be improvements to 110 miles of track.

## Negotiations on Falklands

Britain and Argentina have agreed to reopen formal negotiations over the political and economic future of the Falkland Islands.

Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, told the House of Commons yesterday that the negotiations would start in June or July. They would deal with future political relations, including sovereignty and economic cooperation in the area.

## Butter price drop will be only brief

British housewives will soon pay about 5p a lb less for butter as a result of Britain's acceptance of Monday's a compromise package of higher EEC farm prices. Increased support prices to dairy farmers are, however, expected to erode the savings margin before long. British farmers, too processors and consumer bodies have, in the main, condemned the new EEC deal. They see it as a defeat for Mr John Silkin, the British Minister of Agriculture.

## Slight increase in jobless

Levels of adult unemployment in Britain were virtually unchanged last month, even though the jobless total was boosted by school-leavers coming on to the register after Easter. Unemployment, excluding school leavers, was 1,359,200 on a seasonally adjusted basis (15.5 per cent of the workforce) and up 1,100 on the previous month.

## 1,600 made redundant

C. A. Parsons, the Newcastle-based electrical engineering company, attributed the 1,600 redundancies which it announced partly on the reduction over the placing of an order for the £600m Drax B power station. The redundancy programme will start in August and continue until the end of next year. The announcement may make the possible take-over of Parsons more attractive to GEC.

## Pakistan peace hopes

Hopes grew that a negotiated solution to Pakistan's political crisis might be found before Saturday when Opposition supporters plan to march on the home of Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister. Mr Bhutto has gathered nearly all the Opposition National Assembly leaders at Shikhar near Rawalpindi, for talks.

Leader page 17  
Letters: On preserving the British archive, from Professor Margaret Gowing, and Dr D. W. Rhind; the Civil Service and the TUC; Mr Mr Gerry Flanagan; and from Mr A. La Borne, and others.  
Reading articles: Dr Cogan's visit to Rome; Food prices; King Hussein in Washington.  
Features, pages 16 and 18  
Peter Walker's hopes for a unified Britain; Mario Modonio on how Turkey hopes to persuade the US to lift the arms embargo; Guest column by Lucy Mair; cookery by Katie Stewart.

## House of Lords rejects car seat-belt Bill

The Road Traffic Seat Belts Bill, making the wearing of seat belts compulsory, was rejected in the House of Lords last night by 55 votes to 53 and now dies. A similar Bill was given a substantial majority in the Commons last session, but failed to reach the statute book because of pressure on the Government's timetable. Yesterday it was introduced by Lord Avebury from the Liberal benches, as a private member's Bill. Parliamentary report, page 10

## Inside Robben Island

In a move to dispel allegations that it is running a "Devil's Island" for political prisoners, the South African Government has allowed the local and international press a visit to Robben Island, its maximum security jail. With no newspapers, radios or television its inmates are effectively sealed off from the outside world.

## Sign of free quarks

Physicists at Stanford University, California, have measured electrical charges of a third on heavy metal. It could be the first evidence for the existence of free quarks, elementary particles which had been believed to exist only in groups of two or three.

Pay freeze decided: Mr Joseph Gormley, the miners' president, dismissed as "poppycock" fears that a return to free collective bargaining would lead to a wages explosion.

Blackening threat: North Sea oil rigs and platforms that accept British helicopters face blackening by the National Union of Seamen and the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association.

Pensions: A ten-page Special Report to mark the annual conference of the National Association of Pension Funds which opens at Torquay tomorrow.

Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire: A three-page Special Report on the inaugural sailing of the St Columba.

Diary, page 16  
Dr Magnus Pyke's vision of a brave new electronic era.  
Sport, pages 8, 9  
Football: FA Cup semi-final preview; Cricket: Australians make first appearance today at Arundel; Racing: Programmes for flat and National Hunt meetings.  
Arts, page 14  
Theatre: The Passion (Concert Theatre); Alan Cohn and Michael Church on television; Patrick J. Smith on Lena Kirschner's opera from a novel by Saul Bellow; Kenneth Loveland on the Welsh National Opera.  
Obituary, page 19  
Sir Daniel McGarvey, Professor

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## Managerial pay rose only 1.8 pc last year compared with average of 11.8 pc for all

By Rodney Cowton

Evidence of the continuing erosion of the real value of managerial salaries is provided in a survey published yesterday. It shows that in a sample of about 19,000 executives and directors the average increase in gross pay during 1976 was only 1.8 per cent. This compares with an increase in the index of average weekly earnings for all employees of 11.8 per cent.

Within the overall figure of 1.8 per cent there are some surprising variations. For example, the survey suggests that at the level of chief executives salaries increased by 4 per cent, whereas for several grades of middle or senior managers the increase was negative.

The survey is the fourth annual *Managerial Salary Survey* conducted by Remuneration Economics and published by them in conjunction with the British Institute of Management.

It was conducted before the Budget, but calculations made subsequently suggest that while gross salaries for four representative grades of management will have risen by between 3.3 per cent and 5.5 per cent between the beginning of 1974 and the middle of this year, their purchasing power will have fallen by between 17.5 per cent and 34.4 per cent.

The way this might have worked for a chief executive of a large company can be seen in one table, which shows that such a job at the beginning of 1974 might have carried a salary of £19,100. This, for a married man with two children, would have yielded after-tax pay of £9,882.

The same job in January this year would probably have been carrying a salary of around £20,700, but after tax and after adjustment for inflation, this would now have a purchasing power of only about £6,300. Such figures prompted Mr Roy Close, director-general of the British Institute of Management, to say: "We must hold our nerve in the battle against inflation. Managers are suffering disproportionately, but in the coming phase of that battle, we just cannot afford to let things slip."

"We still need overall restraint, but we also desperately need the flexibility to reward skill, effort and responsibility so that we can improve competitiveness, productivity and output. That is the only way to beat inflation."

The survey gives evidence of the erosion of differentials within management, with the problem being most marked in the largest companies. Thus, while the ratio of net pay of a chief executive to middle management in a large company in 1974 was 3.3, by this year it had fallen to 2.5. In a small company the 1974 figure was 2.7, and is now 2.4.

The survey is available from Remuneration Economics, 51 Portland Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, or from the B.I.M.

Clash over pay, page 2

## MPs expected to debate Ulster strike threat

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

An emergency debate in the Commons on the general strike threatened for Northern Ireland by the United Unionist Action Council is expected to be allowed later this week by the Speaker, Mr George Thomas.

Yesterday, while refusing to grant an emergency debate after an appeal by Mr Gerard Fitt, Social and Democratic Labour Party MP for Belfast, West, Mr Thomas gave enough hints to indicate that if the appeal was repeated later in the week it might succeed.

He told Mr Fitt that at the moment there was only a threat to strike and that the date for the proposed action was next Monday. Therefore his request for a debate must "stand over". Mr Thomas then added that he should not have said "stand over" and should have stated instead that he "could not accede" to Mr Fitt's request.

The strike threat has come as an ultimatum from "loyalist" leaders to Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern

Ireland, giving him seven days to introduce stricter security measures and a new Ulster Parliament.

Mr Fitt contended that that was a matter of urgency and importance. The House, he said, should debate everything entailed in that dangerous situation.

Similar action in 1974 brought about the downfall of the legally elected government at that time, he said. He remembered only too well the chaos, disruption, difficulties and despair that that caused. From the words of the past few days it seemed that a strike of even more severe proportions would take place on Monday.

Mr Fitt said the action was also supported by organizations that were illegal in Northern Ireland.

He added that an advertisement appeared in Northern Ireland newspapers yesterday stating that if Mr Mason and the Government did not fall into line with the demands of the action committee a general strike would be called.

Stockpiling begins, page 2

## Equity opposes Lords appeal by Marius Goring

Mr Marius Goring, the actor, an Equity council member, was warned last night that the union does not support the appeal he is making to the House of Lords.

Mr Goring was granted leave to appeal against a Court of Appeal decision over the way Equity can alter its rules, but an Equity council meeting yesterday decided to dissociate itself from his action. It instructed Mr Goring to withdraw his appeal, and said he would be appealing purely in a personal capacity, against the council's wishes.

If Mr Goring went ahead the council would enter an appearance to defend itself against him.

Strike opposed, page 2

## Arms talks to be resumed

Moscow, April 26.—The Soviet-American strategic arms limitation talks (Salt) will resume in Geneva on May 11, Tass announced today.

## Government is drawn into talks on newspaper merger plan

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

The Government has been drawn into the negotiations between Beaverbrook Newspapers and Associated Newspapers over the immediate future of London's two evening newspapers, and the long-term prospects for the Daily Express and the Daily Mail.

Mr Callaghan has been given ministerial advice about the bigwigs in Fleet Street that is expected to end in the merger of the *Evening Standard* and the *Evening News*.

He has been told that the most likely outcome will be one evening paper for the capital, and in the long term, three to five years, Associated Newspapers and Beaverbrook should form a joint company to print both national morning dailies on the Beaverbrook plant, thus cutting production costs for both papers.

The Beaverbrook group is understood to have told the Government that only such a plan would allow continuing publication of its loss-making *Daily Express* and the profitable *Sunday Express*, while at the same time coping with the company's big losses.

It appears that despite the well publicised difficulties of Beaverbrook Newspapers no new backer has so far emerged. Sir James Goldsmith, the financier, might have been interested in taking over the whole Beaverbrook group, but he has fought shy of the present manoeuvring, the Prime Minister has been told.

The agreement to merge the two London evening papers will involve a reduction in staff for both. The redundancy terms would be settled under the guidelines laid down in the *Programme for Action*, the joint union-management document for the future of Fleet Street. It rules out compulsory redundancies.

According to the advice given to Mr Callaghan, the fear of an immediate adverse response from the printing unions can be

largely discounted. The Prime Minister has been warned that the most intractable opponents of the scheme are likely to be the journalists. Printing union leaders would probably reluctantly agree to a merger that would secure the maximum degree of job security for their remaining members.

Industrial threat: The growing threat of industrial action at the *Evening News* added to the confusion over talks between Beaverbrook and Associated which continued inconclusively yesterday (see Staff Reporter writes). After details that the *Evening Standard* had been sold to Associated Newspapers, it was still not clear last night whether letters of intent to buy and sell had been exchanged.

Parliamentary disquiet over the proposed merger grows, and Mr Foot, leader of the House of Commons, will have urgent talks with the Prime Minister.

In another development yesterday, Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, told officials from the National Union of Journalists' chapters (office branches) of the various newspapers owned by the two groups that they must not approach under the Fair Trading Act, 1973, for his consent to a merger.

Members of the National Society of Operative Printers, Gravers and Medals Personnel at the *Evening News* staged a one-hour stoppage in protest at the lack of management consultation. Production was disrupted without warning and further stoppages are planned.

Mandatory meetings of the NUJ chapters at both London evening newspapers were held as anxiety continued to grow over the threat of redundancies.

At the *Evening News* meeting journalists said they were incensed by a letter from Mr Vere Hartnsworth, chairman of Associated Newspapers. A resolution expressing dismay and outrage at his response to

Continued on page 2, col 3

## Mr Slater not to be extradited

By Clive Borrell

Mr James Slater, former head of Slater, Walker, Securities, will not have to face criminal charges in Singapore, three judges ruled yesterday.

An attempt by the Singapore Government to secure a reversal of a ruling by Mr Kenneth Barakath, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, that Mr Slater should not be extradited, failed after a two-day hearing before Lord Justice Shaw, Mr Justice Nield and Mr Justice Soother in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court.

Lord Justice Shaw said reasons were given later by Mr Ronald Waterhouse, QC, for the Singapore Government, had argued that Mr Barakath's reasoning was wrong in law.

Mr John Mathew, QC, for Mr Slater, said the magistrate had made no error. No case was left unraised and every detail of evidence was before the court.

Law Report, page 19

## Death of Sir Daniel McGarvey

By Our Labour Editor

Sir Daniel McGarvey, a man of the TUC, died at his home in Newcastle upon Tyne, after a long illness, yesterday.

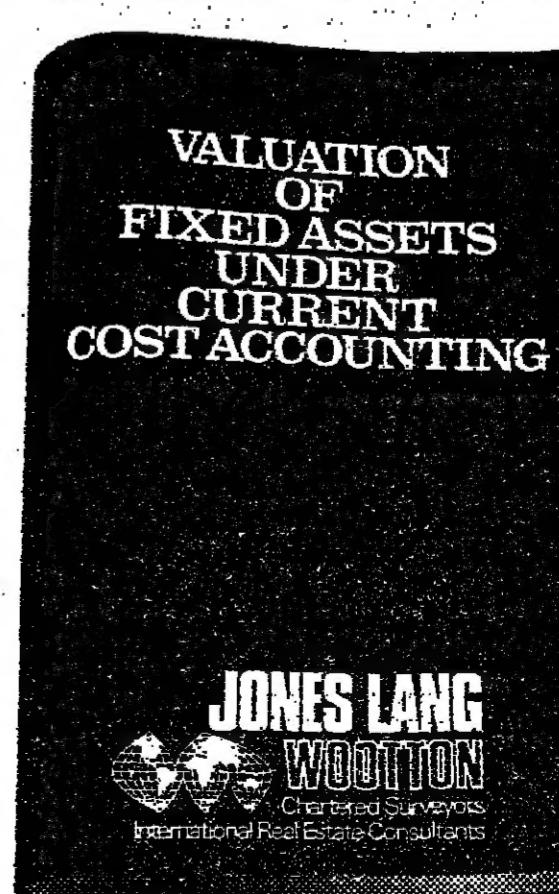
The general council at its monthly meeting today will appoint a successor until the election at the September congress. Mrs Marie Patterson, last year's chairman, who has had to take the chair over the past six months, is almost certain to be confirmed as substitute.

Many tributes were paid to Sir Daniel yesterday, including those from the TUC, the Labour Party, and the Queen's Bench Divisional Court.

The funeral will take place tomorrow. There will be Requiem Mass at St Bede's Church, Denton Burn, Newcastle, followed by a cremation.

Obituary, page 19

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## HOME NEWS

## Stockpiling begins as Ulster prepares for 'loyalist' strike

From Christopher Walker

People in many parts of Northern Ireland have begun to stockpile essential foods in anticipation of another crippling general strike by "loyalists" similar to that which wrecked the power supply in the province three years ago. Although precise details of the protest are being kept secret, it is expected to begin next Monday after the expiry of a seven-day ultimatum to the Government by the United Ulster Action Council, an umbrella grouping of loyalist bodies.

The ultimatum was published yesterday in the Belfast News Letter.

The protest is directed at re-establishing the Stormont parliament largely in the form it held when abolished in 1972. The loyalists threatening the strike have demanded that Mr Mason, Secretary of State, should start a "new offensive" against the IRA and take immediate steps to implement the report of the de la Cour Commission, which advocated a government without power-sharing.

Protestant discontent with direct rule and the Government's security policy has led to a "sabre-rattling" recently. But the latest threats are being treated seriously by the authorities and by the ordinary people of Ulster.

Mr Mason moved rapidly yesterday to mobilize moderate public opinion against the threatened protest. He indicated to local politicians that the Government would be prepared to adopt a much more forceful line against the strikers than that taken in 1974. After a 90-minute meeting with Mr Mason at Stormont, Mr Harry West, leader of the Official Unionists, the largest Protestant party, publicly urged the organizers not to implement their strike threat at present.

But there was no official and a similar condemnation by Mr Airey Neave, Conservative spokesman on Ulster, would succeed in cooling the tempers of the more extreme loyalists on the council, which represents a wide range of political parties, paramilitary groups and the loyal orders. Because of the structure of industry in Ulster the council is influential in most of the main industrial concerns, both public and private.

Mr West, one of the council's spokesmen, said:

## taken to task for criticizing JPs

Mr John Richman, clerk to the Sheffield justices, replied last night to criticism of magistrates by Crown Court judges. "These utterances are foolish and they should stop," he said. The criticism ignored the difficult and successful job done by magistrates in unsatisfactory accommodation and circumstances.

"I have been especially sorry this last year to read in the criticism from Crown Court judges, which, when you come to examine the circumstances, is based on totally inadequate information and a basic lack of understanding of a situation which I find alarming."

## Tyndale investigations cost £77,552

By Diana Geddes

Investigations into complaints about the "progressive" teaching methods used at the former William Tyndale Junior School, Islington, London, have cost £77,552 so far, the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) said yesterday.

The public inquiry, by Mr Robin Auld, QC, which reported in February, 1976, had cost £36,552 and the disciplinary tribunal by the authority whose report was given to the six teachers concerned on Monday, cost £21,000. In addition there were indirect costs of £55,800 during the five-month tribunal hearings which covered the salaries of the six teachers who were on paid leave throughout the two inquiries.

No figure was available for the indirect cost to the authority during the Auld inquiry, which was set up in October, 1975, after a 24-day strike by the six teachers the month before.

As reported in *The Times* yesterday, the disciplinary tribunal's report recommended

## Killer's guilty pleas to manslaughter rejected

A man accused of murdering and mutilating three girls admitted at Manchester Crown Court yesterday that he killed them. But his pleas of guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility were not accepted by the Crown.

Mr Justice Caulfield ordered the trial of murder charges to continue. The confession by Trevor Hardy, aged 31, of no fixed address, came on the fifth day of the trial. He had been allowed new leading and junior counsel. On Monday he decided to dismiss his lawyers and defend himself.

After Mr Roger Hynes, QC, and Mr Mukhtar Hussain had agreed to act for Mr Hardy,

they asked that the indictment should be put to him again. He then pleaded not guilty to the three murder charges but admitted unlawfully killing the girls.

He is accused of murdering Jane Lesley Stewart, aged 15, of Harrogate, Manchester, who disappeared on New Year's Eve, 1974; Wanda Skala, aged 18, of Newton Heath, Manchester, who died in July, 1975; and Sharon Mossop, aged 17, of Fallowfield, Manchester, who died in March last year. Mr Hardy has pleaded guilty to unlawfully wounding a fourth girl by grabbing her round the throat and squeezing until she bit through her tongue.

The judge said that the parents were gambling with the boy's future by refusing to send him to a comprehensive school. The boy has already spent three weeks in a children's home under earlier care orders quashed by a judge at Bedford Crown Court.

The new care order, made by Bedfordshire County Council, came into effect on the first day of the new school term. When the parents still refused to send him to school he was taken into care. Education chiefs and social workers will decide whether to send him to a residential school or take him into care from a comprehensive school.

The boy's mother said: "We do not know where our son has been taken."

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## Concern at decrease in language pupils

By a Staff Reporter

Britain cannot afford a rapid decline in the number of pupils taking modern languages if she is to compete with her business and industrial competitors abroad, a Headmasters' Conference working party says in a report on modern language teaching, published yesterday.

It shows that between 1970 and 1975 the numbers of pupils taking A level French, German and Spanish fell by almost a third in spite of an increase in most other subjects. French language entrance fell from 25,525 to 17,025; German from 7,520 to 5,516; and Spanish from 2,572 to 1,687.

There had also been a great fall-off in the number of pupils taking languages at university, which meant that there was a continuing shortage of good language teachers. The quality of training of young modern language teachers "often leaves much to be desired, and little if anything is being done at present to improve the situation", the report says.

The national need for lawyers, accountants, diplomats, insurance brokers, industrialists and the like who can speak two languages, the report emphasizes. "If we are a nation of shopkeepers, depending on our trade for survival, then we must have foreign nationals on our staff."

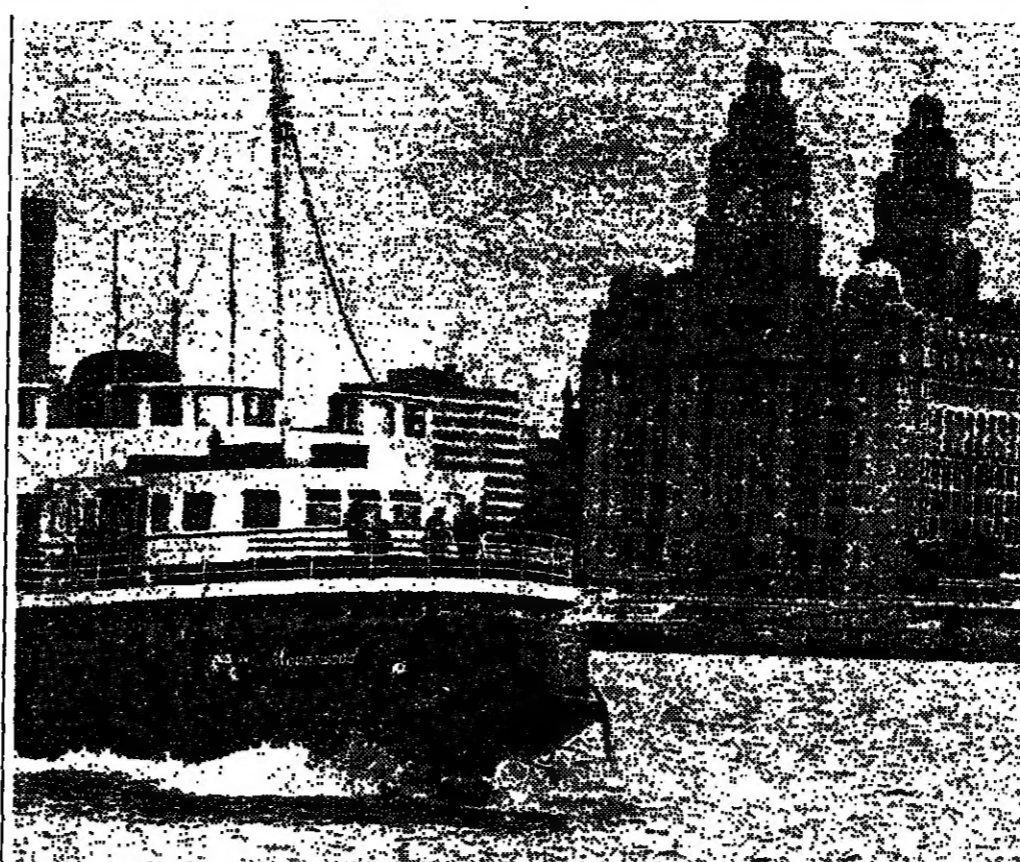
But, it says, "we are faced with the indigenous laziness of the Englishman who expects foreigners to learn his language. This leads to the Englishman's reputation for isolation and arrogance."

Industry and commerce seemed to have been slow to sense a need for a more international attitude, the working party says. In the past they had tended to put the cart before the horse by putting employees through crash language courses, which were of dubious permanent value. The report suggests recruiting men and women with a language proficiency and then teaching them business.

Britain's entry into the EEC might have been expected to give all language learning a tremendous boost, but it now looks as though German was in danger of finding itself in the same situation as Latin, the report says. The day of the double linguist in the sixth form is rapidly disappearing in most schools.

Report on the teaching and examination of modern languages. (The Headmasters' Conference, 29 Gordon Square, London, WC1, 1).

Parliamentary report, page 10



Mersey ferries: A decision to try to save the loss-making Mersey ferries, one of which is seen above with the Royal Liver Building in the background, was taken at a meeting yesterday between Mr William Sifton, chairman of Merseyside County Council, and the chairman of the five district councils (Robert Parker writes). In announcing the decision, Mr Sifton acknowledged "the swell" of opposition to the closure plans. He said the meeting had agreed that there appeared to be no grounds for keeping the ferries as part of an efficient transport system linking Liverpool and the Wirral. But Mr Sifton has asked the five district chairmen to consult their authorities about keeping the ferries for pleasure purposes and to discuss the setting up of a new organization

to run the ferry services and replace the administration carried out by the Merseyside Passenger Transport Executive. He hoped he would know the results in the next six or seven weeks. Mr Sifton said he would be recommending the county council to contribute a fifth of the cost of running any newly organized ferry service. The two ferry services between Pierhead, Liverpool, and Birkenhead and Wallasey are losing just over £1m a year, and the number of regular passengers has been dwindling. Because of that and because rail links have been greatly improved, the county council, through the Passenger Transport Executive, has been promoting through Parliament a Bill that would allow it to shut the ferries, which were started in the fourteenth century with a royal charter.

## Tighten arms net, churches say

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent

The British Government is to be urged by the churches to work for a mandatory international embargo on arms for South Africa. At its assembly in London yesterday the British Council of Churches decided that the time had come to close the net that military supplies and assistance had been getting through.

The council was told that there was evidence that British arms and military spare parts were still reaching South Africa. They were passing through third countries, or else were manufactured under licence abroad.

The council, holding its spring assembly, was told that its proposal for a national conference

on evangelism to be held in 1980 was gaining widespread support in church circles. A group of prominent churchmen, headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, some months ago, had produced a plan for sharing expertise and experience between all the main British churches.

In an address to the assembly yesterday, Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, praised the council's plan for a thorough study of the future direction of British society, under the heading "Britain Today and Tomorrow".

The Roman Catholic Church is not in membership of the British Council of Churches, though Cardinal Hume's presence and the warmth of his remarks yesterday were taken by some as an indication that his church might apply to join in the not too distant future.

Cardinal Hume said it was a paradox that there was on the one hand apparent general public apathy over institutional religion in Britain today while there was at the same time a great yearning for spiritual things.

"There is, for example, a profound curiosity about the person of Jesus Christ," he said. "People are perpetually fascinated by him and by the challenge of his message."

In public we seem to be moving farther and farther away from Christian values. In private there seems to be an increasing longing for God and for the things of God."

Church then was being offered to buy one of his houses.

It was stated that Mr Perrett had planned to build 13 houses on the Old Hall site, Station Street. Because they were semi-detached and he was prepared to pass on any discount he got, he was able to sell them at a much lower price than the average house in the area to help first-time buyers.

Mr Perrett said that the only reason he approached Mr Church was to introduce himself as the developer and explain his plans. He did not want the local planning committee to think that some big London development agency was behind the scheme.

Perrett said he had offered nothing more to Mr Church than was being offered to buy one of his houses.

Police officers checking on four "hunters" in a lonely quarry in Northern Ireland today found that inside eight half-skinned game carcasses were plastic bags containing £100,000 in cash stolen only a few minutes earlier from a Securicor van.

The "hunters", believed to be members of the Provisional IRA, had stopped the van as it travelled along a mountain road between Limavady and Coleraine, Co Londonderry.

They forced the security men to drive at gunpoint down an isolated forest road, where they were bound and gagged.

Soon after, police officers in a party of four saw three suspicious vehicles in the quarry. Their flimsies included an Armalite rifle and two hand-guns.

Four men were being interviewed last night.

Pressure will be low to N of Scotland, with a shower of W air stream covering most of the British Isles.

Forecast for 6 am to midnight: London, SE, Central, E, Central, N, England, Midlands, East Angles: Bright or sunny spells, showers, perhaps heavy in places: wind W, moderate or fresh: max temp 12°C (54°F).

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## Miners' leader clashes with minister over pay

By Paul Roudledge

Labour Editor

Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, clashed with Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, yesterday over the need for a renewal of voluntary wage curbs. Mr Gormley dismissed as a "poppycock" the argument that a return to free collective bargaining would mean a wages explosion. He added: "Let us forget about wage curbs."

The minister and the union leader both spoke at the Midlands area conference of the miners union at Blackpool. Mr Varley, an MP sponsored by the miners, said: "If we keep our nerve now, if we go on working together and if we work out a sensible, flexible pay agreement, we shall succeed in laying a solid industrial base for our future."

"The £5 policy halved the rate of inflation. The action we took last year has stabilised the pound. The balance of payments is improving, largely with the help of our energy resources. The industrial strategy that is being worked out by the

Government, trade unions and management will bring great benefits if given a chance. Already it has shown how a £3,000m a year improvement in our balance of payments could be achieved by 1980. Our job now is to implement it, with all it means for higher real wages, higher living standards, better social services and more jobs."

Mr Gormley appeared unmoved by the minister's remarks. "People want to negotiate in a free world and there is no question of being handed a pot of gold. You have got to negotiate to get a satisfactory position," he said.

He countered the view that failure to negotiate a renewal of pay restraint would mean a general election. "That suggests to me that someone is running frightened," he said. "If they have a genuine feeling of doubt, we should dispel it. Let us forget about stage three. I do not think it is necessary and it is only being pushed because of pressures put on us from outside."

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## Strike call rejected by actors

By Our Arts Reporter

Equity, the actors' union, received several telegrams yesterday rejecting a call for a 24-hour strike made at the union's annual meeting on Monday in an emergency motion protesting against government cuts in the arts.

The new general council, holding its first meeting, was unable to discuss the strike resolution, which was passed overwhelmingly, because of pressure of business. It will be discussed next week.

Two of the telegrams were from the casts of the West End productions of *No Sex Please, We're British*, at the Strand Theatre, and *Murder at the Vicarage*, at the Fortune.

Monday's meeting also expressed its support for a new campaign established to oppose the cuts.

## Factory-level wage pacts urged by Mrs Thatcher

By Our Political Correspondent

Wage bargaining should be transferred from the hands of the big union leaders at the centre to the shop stewards and representatives of management in individual firms, Mrs Thatcher said last night.

Confidently predicting that a Conservative government would be able to "get on" with the unions, Mrs Thatcher nevertheless seemed to be advocating a syndicalist approach to labour relations which will not win her plaudits from all the powerful union leaders. Their power would be sharply curbed by the method of plant bargaining she recommended.

She was being interviewed in *Nationwide*, the BBC television programme, by Mr Frank Rought and Professor Robert MacKenzie, and there will be an opportunity tomorrow, in the same programme, for Mrs Thatcher to answer viewers' questions direct.

It was the kind of arrangement made a few weeks ago when Mr Callaghan was interviewed and cross-examined in the same programme.

Mrs Thatcher said the main difficulty in the next stage of income policy was to select those with extra skill and those

who took extra responsibilities got sufficient recognition in the pay.

She said: "In the final resort there is no substitute for responsibility in wage bargaining at the place where it should take place: on the shop floor, in the plant where people work, bargaining between the shop stewards and representatives of the firm, between the staff side and the management."

If bargaining was no longer done centrally, but at the place of work, "you will get a much better wage deal, and you will get the better productivity that you need."

Mrs Thatcher said there would be no trouble in dealing with the unions if the Conservatives came to power. "I shall not have difficulty in getting on with anyone who is reasonable and anyone who has a passion for the future of Britain and its increasing prosperity, as I have."

"We shall not have difficulty in negotiating reasonably with the unions. I want to get a good deal of dispersal of power, so that the people in the factory should take the decisions which affect them. That is, for me, far truer participation than having a vote in what goes on in a central, collective decision."

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## Inquiry rejects allegations against water authority

From Our Correspondent

Reading

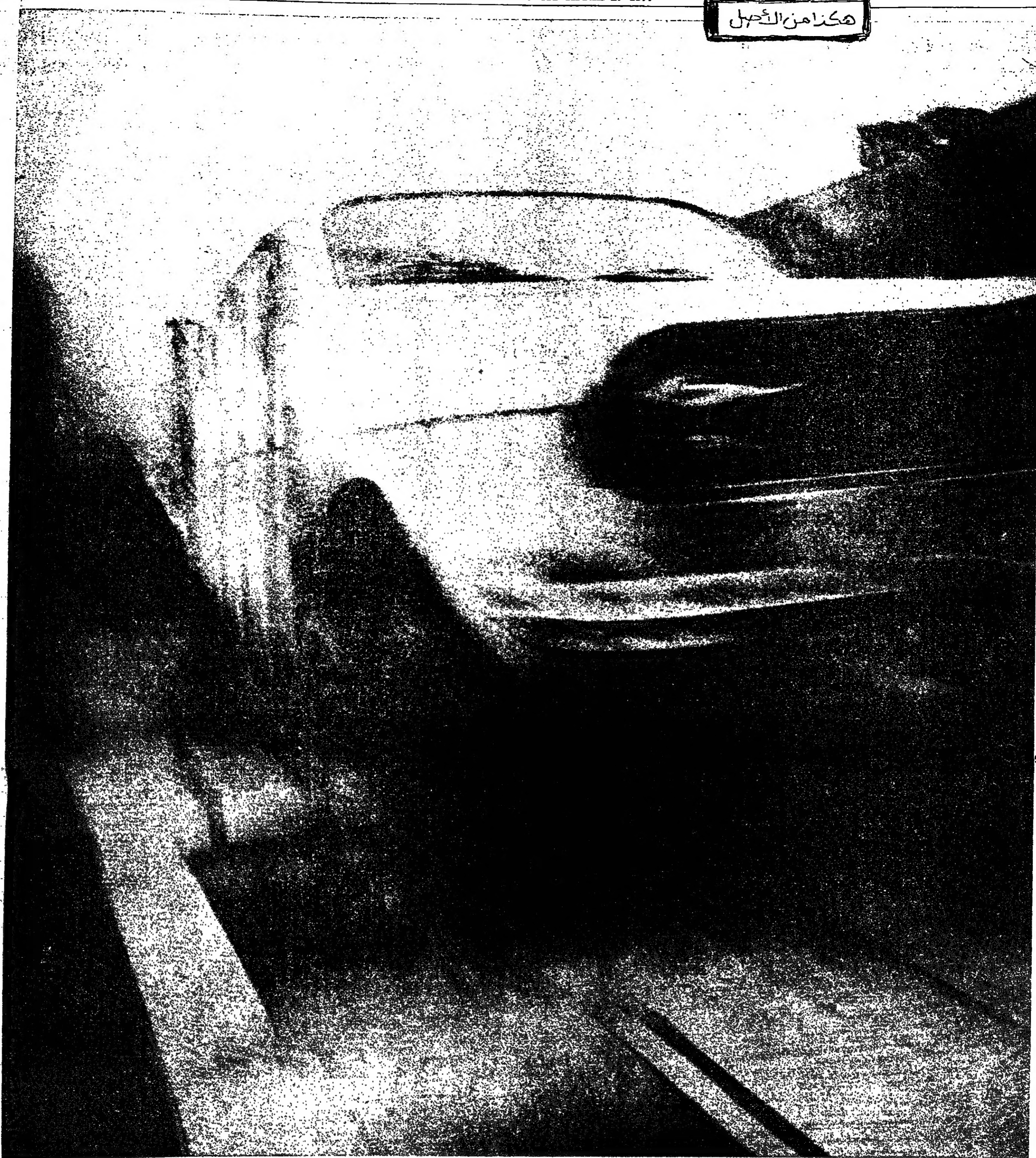
Allegations that the Thames Water Authority spent more than £1m without proper authorization have been rejected by an inquiry, it was announced yesterday. But the man who made the allegations, Mr Reginald Bolland, aged 63, a former water authority official, said he would take the case to the High Court.

During a public inquiry last February Mr Bolland maintained that the authority had handed out £360,000 in cheap mortgages to employers without

proper approval. He also alleged that £28,000 a year was spent on legal representatives to present his case better. I am sure the man in the street will be very surprised to know that the sort of expenditure I complained of is officially regarded as legitimate."

Mr Bolland said: "I am convinced I will win in the High Court. This

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Photograph: Gus Wylie

## Going nowhere fast.

This car is doing 70 or so, but it'll never get anywhere. What we're simply doing is testing motor oil performance in a car engine, with the car mounted on one of the dynamometers at our Coryton Research and Technical Service Laboratory. The dynamometer uses rollers that rotate under the vehicle allowing us to test engines and lubricants under all sorts of simulated driving conditions without actually taking cars out on the roads. Very useful, because we can put precise controls on the testing. We select the latest models from car manufacturers all over Europe for testing at the Coryton labs. We

check our oils for their wear protection, their performance at high temperatures, and their stability against oil shear.

In a going-nowhere run like the one in the photo, we can put an engine through 20,000 miles of motoring conditions of the most punishing kind. It's just one of the jobs we do at Coryton to develop and test automotive lubricants for car owners.

One of the most important developments to come out of Coryton recently is new Mobil Super motor oil.

This is a new multigrade oil specifically meant for today's high revving, hard working engines. It gives first class performance over a wide range of temperatures—it's heavy enough for the hot weather, yet light enough to get you going when it turns cold.

Mobil Super has been on the market only a few weeks, and already it's something of a best seller. The right oil at the right time, it seems.

We're delighted to have developed Mobil Super. Makes us think we are really getting somewhere.

**Mobil®**

HOME NEWS

# Blackening ultimatum to oil companies over Bristow pilot's strike

From Ronald Faux  
Aberdeen

The National Union of Seamen and the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association told oil companies yesterday that all oil rigs and platforms accepting Bristow helicopters would be "blackened" from midnight.

Mr James Milne, general secretary of the Scottish TUC, who was in Aberdeen for talks with the Bristow helicopter pilots' strike committee, said there was a danger now of the dispute becoming a threat to North Sea operations and the national economy.

Airport pilots and engineers who are still working accused the British Airline Pilots' Association (Balpa) of using the strike as an excuse to increase its own power.

The spread of the dispute between the pilots on strike at Bristow Helicopters, now reported by Balpa, and Mr Alan Bristow, the company chairman, could disrupt supplies of equipment, food and fuels to four oilfields and 14 rigs, which are Bristow customers. Members of the seamen's union and the merchant navy association crew and command many of the supply vessels.

Mr Milne said: "We are not concerned who brings Mr Bristow to the conference table or whether he comes willingly or unwillingly. He has got to be brought there quickly. Balpa cannot afford to lose this dispute, nor can the trade union movement. There are enough mavericks in the North Sea without having Bristow join them."

The 12-day strike, which is over the dismissal of a Bristow captain who refused to accept two overseas postings offered to him, has divided company pilots at Aberdeen. Beyond that is the attempt to force Mr Bristow to recognize the union.

Although fuel stocks are now thought to be low because tanker drivers have refused to supply the Bristow base, the 60 pilots still working maintain that they are comfortably meeting all the company's commitments. Fuel was brought by non-union tankers to Aberdeen directly from the Bristow headquarters at Redhill.

Yesterday a group of Bristow pilots and engineers who have refused to strike accused Balpa of deliberately seizing on the dismissal issue to bring about confrontation with Bristow Helicopters.

## Union refuses to make Heathrow dispute official

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

British Airways maintenance engineers at Heathrow remained isolated in their 23-day industrial action yesterday after the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers had refused an appeal to make the dispute official.

The 3,700 men will hold a mass meeting today. If they again decide to continue the action in defiance of the union's instruction there will be a prospect of a gradual drift back to work.

All the 17 maintenance and engineering unions at the airport are against the stoppage.

The action centres on a demand for separate bargaining rights and new shift structures. The AUEW is adamant that it will not agree to the men's negotiating for themselves, but all the unions are willing to discuss shift changes. That would imply a revised system to give better payments.

With maintenance engineers from other unions working normally, the airline is operating long-distance services from Gatwick and three-quarters of flights to Europe.

Mr Hugh Scanlon, AUEW president, emphasized that his union would not be tied by anybody whether it should withdraw from established bargaining machinery.

Last night union officials were trying to work out yet another peace formula which could be put to today's mass meeting.

## The local elections 7: Key to power on Merseyside lies in Liberals' hands

# Labour knows it stands to lose its slender majority

By a Staff Reporter

The Liberals hold the key to the elections on May 5 in the Merseyside Metropolitan County. Just as they denied Labour a convincing majority in 1973, they are in a position to prevent the advancing Conservatives from taking control.

Labour holds power with a majority of seven. It has 53 of the 99 council seats. The Conservatives have 28, the Liberals 17 and there is one independent. The Liberals controlled Liverpool after 1973 until Labour overhauled them last year.

The future structure of the county council depends largely on the Liberals' holding most of their 17 seats. They cannot afford to lose more than a handful if they are to achieve their best hope, holding the balance of power.

In spite of confident predictions that they can retain power, the Labour Party, led by Mr William Sefton, is aware of its precarious position. If it loses

four seats it will lose overall control. The swing to the Conservatives since 1973 in four districts outside Liverpool has been between 8 and 11 per cent, which might put at least 12 Labour seats in danger and allow the Conservatives to overhauled them as the largest party.

The likely strength of the Liberal vote is the most difficult to predict. They recently won a local seat from Independent Labour and took half the poll in another, suggesting firm support.

The Liberals' reputation on Merseyside is that of a party that proved the power of "community" politics. Local Liberal leaders became known nationally and Liverpool Liberals became a model for the party.

If much of the Liberals' support on Merseyside came from the personalities of their local candidates, the fact that four of the best known, Mr Trevor Jones, Mr David Alton, Mr Cyril Carr and Dr David

Caldwell, the Liberal leader, are not contesting this election might have a serious effect on the party's support.

The Liberals are putting up 78 of the 302 candidates standing for election. The Conservatives are contesting all the seats and Labour will fight 93. Other candidates include 19 Communists and three each from the National Front and National Party who might all take votes from Labour.

Dr Caldwell says the Liberals are fighting to control the council, but realistically admits that it is more likely they will hold the balance. He is worried that a handful of Liberal-held seats might fall to the Conservatives, but is confident that the party can make significant gains from Labour and the Conservatives and keep Liberal representation at about 17.

Sir Kenneth Thompson, aged 67, a former junior Conservative minister, who leads the Merseyside Conservatives, is quietly confident of his party's chances of taking control.

"Twenty-two wins would give us a majority of one, and we can do it." Liberal influence was difficult to evaluate, he says. He is contemptuous of their role in local politics and sees them as opportunists.

Sir Kenneth fears that perhaps no party will have overall control, but says there will be no deals and no "touting" of policies around the parties.

He identified the dominant local issue as transport. He believes local people would be prepared to pay more for bus and train journeys if the service was more reliable. The Conservatives wanted an inner ring road in the centre of Liverpool.

Mr Sefton, a former leader of Liverpool City Council, is widely considered an able leader of the Metropolitan County. He is happy to stand on the Labour Party's record nationally and locally. "Apathy will favour the controlling party", he predicted.

He is scornful of the Liberals' campaign to have the county streamlined and eventually abolished and power given back to the districts. In its four years the metropolitan county had worked well and the voice of Merseyside was heard only if Labour cannot be happy to go into an election that is likely to be determined by the national unpopularity of the Government, and the party must hope that if the Liberal vote holds, at least the Conservatives will be denied an overall majority.

## Food prices agitate the Ashfield voters

From David Leigh  
Sutton-in-Ashfield

For Sutton-in-Ashfield, a great deal in the Ashfield by-election. For a start, the party workers had to be fed, and in the Nottinghamshire coalfield that means "fed properly".

The Labour campaigners strewed away large fry-ups in the back of the Kirkby-in-Ashfield committee room: eggs, pieces of fried bread, steaks, cream corn, and a large canned pheasant were saved last night for a celebration. Anything that preserves a bare third of the 23,000 majority here will be counted as an event to celebrate.

The Tories, it is said, are becoming slightly nervous about the number of bestroop and wiches they are expected to eat at their headquarters. When Mrs Thatcher came on Saturday she made a point of buying some fish and chips before entering.

Mr Michael Cowan, the Labour candidate, dully told a meeting last night that he had probably put them in the dustbin as soon as she was out of sight. But her original intention was to make for Sutton's indoor market and buy a sample selection of food there. ("She stocks up months ahead", Mr Cowan said.)

As it was, someone threw a cream bun at her. "And they are a fair price nowadays", a voter at Bentinck Colliery, Mr David Welfare, said. Welfare said that he had seen a cabbage that was "discussible". That is something the Liberal, Mr Thompson, ought to know about. A large, bearded and pleasantly eccentric figure, he runs a fruiterers' business in the market, and of an attractive wholesale shopping precinct.

That is where the political meetings are held: where Mrs Thatcher plans to buy groceries and where the windows and shutters are decorated with food: mushrooms, courgettes, and garlic on Mr Phil's stall and piles of livers, hearts, pig's fries and filler steaks at £1.32 a pound on the butchers' stalls.

The meat may trouble Mr Phil slightly. He is a vegetarian and a pacifist. But it does demonstrate that Ashfield's preoccupation with food is not because people are hungry. It is because they are exasperated.

Mr Tim Smith, the Conservative, can be found handing out leaflets at the market exit: "Just look at your housing, your purse as you see how hard Labour has hit you." He has had himself photographed for his election address looking meaningfully at a pile of swedes on a stall of one of Mr Phil's competitors.

Candidates: M. Cowan (Lab.), T. Smith (C), H. C. Flint (L), Mrs J. Hall (Soc. Workers' Party), C. Harwood (Nat. Front).

General election: Y. T. Marquand (Lab.), 35,567; R. N. Kenn (C), 12,457; H. C. Flint (L), 7,933. Lab. maj., 22,915.

## Rain Tories' friend at Grimsby

From Ronald Kershaw  
Grimsby

Evening-of-poll meetings in the Grimsby by-election are not fashionable, largely because the predominant newspaper is an evening publication and polling tomorrow will be half over before it reaches most readers.

Final shots in the campaign, therefore, were fired last night when Mr William Whitelaw, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party, Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, and Mr John Pardoe, Liberal spokesman on Treasury matters, descended on the town to inspire their supporters.

From most points of view yesterday was an uncomfortable day for Mr Austin Mitchell, the Labour candidate. Unemployment figures released at midday showed the highest April total since the war: Grimsby's local unemployment rate increased from 6.2 per cent to 6.5 per cent; C. A. Parsons, the North-east electrical engineering firm, which is not very

far from Grimsby, announced 1,600 redundancies; and the devaluation of the "green pound" prompted forecasts of a continuing rise in the cost of basic foods. On top of that, it rained all day.

But Mr Mitchell reported rising enthusiasm for him in the constituency. His visits to the commercial docks yesterday raised cheers from the dockers, and when the war was carried to the doorstep of Mr Robert Blair, his Conservative opponent, there was cheering, singing and much banging of filling knives to welcome him on a tour of the Birds Eye factory, where Mr Blair works.

Ironically one of the minor candidates, Mr Michael Stanton, of the Socialist Workers' Party, a local dockworker, may hold the key to the by-election result. It is acknowledged by most contenders that the election will

be a close-run thing between Conservative and Labour, and if Mr Stanton pulls in only a few hundred votes from Labour that could make the difference between success and failure to Mr Mitchell.

Mr Blair's supporters record a continuing shift towards the Tories, particularly on council house estates. "Concern about the future of the fishing industry continues to grow, and Mr Blair, with his Birds Eye connections, continues to make political capital out of the industry's decline."

The result is as unpredictable as the weather, and indeed the weather tomorrow may be of crucial significance. The Conservatives must pray for rain.

Candidates: R. Blair (C), A. De Freitas (L), A. Mitchell (Lab.), M. Northington (Malcolm Muggeridge Fan Club), M. Stanton (Soc. Workers' Party), P. B. H. Bishop (Sunshine Party).

General election: C. A. R. Crossland (Lab.), 21,557; K. C. Brown (C), 14,675; D. M. Rigby (L), 9,487; J. McElrea (Ind. Dem. Lab), 166. Lab. Majority, 6,982.

## Some councils in danger of 'grave temptation'

By Our Local Government Correspondent

Britain's first post-1972 local government election leaves the post-war system open to great temptation. Professor Bryson Keith-Lucas, Professor of Government at Kent University, says in a pamphlet on local government electoral reform. The present system, particularly because of the block vote, produces results that are not only unfair but in some cases positively dangerous, he says.

In the pamphlet, published by the National Committee for Electoral Reform, Professor Keith-Lucas argues that local authorities without an effective opposition are open to grave temptations, and a decision of a planning committee might make thousands of pounds difference to the value of a piece of land. That lay behind much of the trouble and corruption

that had come to light in recent years.

The Salmon report on standards of conduct in public life had stated that an important contributory factor to corruption in local government was the existence of a number of local authorities where there was not the check and balance of an effective opposition, a fault attributed to the defects of the electoral system.

If it be true that party politics play too big a part in English local government, it is true that councils without an effective opposition group are likely to be bad councils, open to corruption, this is not a matter to be endured, like the weather.

Local Elections: Let's get them in proportion. (National Committee for Electoral Reform, 12 Upper Belgrave Street, London, SW1. 35p).

## US refit for QE2 'based' on economics

From Our Correspondent  
Southampton

The Queen Elizabeth 2 is to have her annual refit in an American yard for economic reasons, Cunard said yesterday. It said its decision did not signify dissatisfaction with previous refits by Vosper Thornycroft at Southampton.

The ship is to make her last Atlantic crossing this year on October 29 and will then make winter cruises from the United States.

The refit is due in November. Vosper Thornycroft's shop stewards yesterday expressed dismay and anger.

## Concorde paths may be changed to reduce boom

By Our Air Correspondent

Britain and France are to try to eradicate the sonic booms made by the Concorde airliner, which have been heard over a wide area of southern England recently.

A working group of civil servants from the two countries is to meet to consider how the flight paths of the aircraft might be altered.

The group was one of several technical committees established during the development of the Concorde. It has not met for some time, as it was thought that with the aircraft routed

down the English and Bristol channels the booms would be discernible only over water.

Mr Davis, Under Secretary of State for Trade, said in a letter to Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for New Forest: "Although some secondary booms are being experienced from British Airways Concordes, the primary boom problem, and most secondary booms, emanate from Air France aircraft."

It seemed possible that, with the agreement of the French, the impact of primary booms from Air France Concordes could be reduced. That would also ease the disturbance caused by the secondary booms.

## Handbook to offer guidance on supplementary benefits

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The first new edition of the Supplementary Benefits Handbook to appear for two and a half years is to be published next month. It will revise much of the information that has become obsolete through policy changes since November 1974, and explain for the first time some aspects of official policy that have never before been made public.

Two areas that will be covered for the first time are the effective starting date of new claims, on which a High Court case is pending, and guidance on prices of clothing

when families are awarded exceptional need grants. Both areas have been subject to controversy, since the official guidance in the handbook often varies with the practice experienced by claimants and their advisers.

Soon after the new handbook is published the Child Poverty Action Group will be bringing out a "companion" volume of its own, based on the secret instructions in the A code which officials use to decide claims. Extracts from the A code published in The Times last year showed clearly that the instructions are often at variance with the guidance contained in the official handbook.

## Animals not fed on 48-hour trip, MP says

A Government investigation was urged yesterday by Mr Robin Corbett, MP for Hemel Hempstead, into reports that nine bullocks were kept without food, water or rest on a 48-hour journey from Dover to northern Italy.

He said: "This tears to shreds every single piece of animal welfare legislation agreed with the EEC and shows how easy it is to circumvent the regulations."

He alleged that the bullocks boarded the midnight ferry on April 20, arriving at Calais at 4.30 am next day. Six hours later they were loaded on to a lorry, which braked sharply 40 miles along the way, throwing the bullocks forward and breaking the lorry body from the cab. After repairs it continued into Italy, arriving at midnight on April 22.

Chief Supt Ronald Batfield, head of the RSPCA special unit, gathering evidence to back its campaign to stop the export of live food animals, confirmed Mr Corbett's account.



Statue repair: The stone hands of friendship between the English-speaking peoples at the House of Commons, which were blasted apart by a German flying bomb are being repaired (Michael Horne writes). The 15th statue of a mature Britain handing over the torch of civilization to a youthful America, above the Kingsway entrance to the headquarters of the BBC's external services, was erected in 1923 by the Indiana Stone Company, of the United States. The outstretched arm of America, the lower hand above, and part of the torch were blown off in 1944. Mr John Tuckey, a vice-president of the company, visited Britain on holiday earlier this year and decided to apply about £2,000 of American generosity to repair the damage.

## 103 jurors are challenged in carnival trial

One hundred and three out of 155 potential jurors were challenged at the Central Criminal Court, London, yesterday when 17 black youths appeared for trial on charges arising from the 1976 Notting Hill carnival.

The challenges came after a defence application that at least six members of the jury should be black. When the jury of 12 was sworn after two hours and a half it included five black people.

Judge Campbell, QC, had said: "So far as I am concerned there will be no racial undertones about this case. These gentlemen in the dock are charged with robbery and theft."

All the defendants have pleaded not guilty variously to charges of plotting to rob and steal in about August, 1976. They are: Dennis Anthony Bains, of Holloway Road, Upper Holloway; Hyram Henderson, Brighthelm, Verbury Road, Holloway; Roger Lucien Marsh, Hargrave Road, Upper Holloway; Michael Oway, of Tottenham, Tottenham; Rodney, Clive Anthony Whiteley, Mark Roger Carter, Michael Oliver Mackintosh, Henderson Leroy Wills, Desmond Anthony Riley, and Alton St Louis, and four boys aged between 14 and 15 from Tottenham and Holloway.

The trial was adjourned until tomorrow.

## Somerset Levels threatened

The Somerset Levels, an area famous for rare plants and animals, is threatened by agricultural and commercial peat-cutting, the Nature Conservancy Council said yesterday.

In a consultation document it said that the Ministry of Agriculture considered three-quarters of the 169,000 acres capable of agricultural development. It suggested the setting up of nature reserves

## British Rail will celebrate with a jubilee train

A silver jubilee passenger express train is to be introduced on the London to Edinburgh line from June 8, recalling the one that ran more than 40 years ago. The new train will travel once a day in each direction, five days a week.

The official silver jubilee train went into service between King's Cross and Newcastle upon Tyne on September 30, 1935. It was made up of a streamlined Gresley A4 steam locomotive hauling seven coaches. The 268 miles were covered in under four hours.

The new express will be hauled by a diesel electric locomotive. It will carry the words "Silver Jubilee" on the head board.

The announcement of the jubilee train came after a demonstration run by BR's high-speed train (HST) InterCity 125 between King's Cross and Peterborough. The seven-coach train reached 125 mph during the run, which took 54 minutes compared with the normal express passenger time of about 70 minutes.

Officials said that by 1979 the HST would cover the 268 miles to Newcastle in under three hours, at an average speed of more than 92 mph.

## Ship fire inquiry

A fire sweeping in the frigates Gambia may be tried by court martial in connection with two lives lost during a visit to Newport, Gwent, earlier this month, a CID officer said yesterday.

Speaking at Barnstaple, South Devon, he said a new inquiry scheme had been approved by the Treasury. Provided security arrangements were adequate, the Government would pay for insurance on items loan on the long term to provincial art galleries and museums from national collections. That cost had previously been too high to allow such loans.

Lord Donaldson also said that later this year a meeting of national institutions such as the British Museum would discuss a possible new programme of touring exhibitions.

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## HOME NEWS

## Patients ordered about and denied right to choose own doctors in 'restrictive' NHS, congress told

From John Roper  
Health Services Correspondent  
Eastbourne

The National Health Service has become a restrictive service in which patients are ordered about and denied the right to choose their own doctors, a Royal Society of Health congress in Eastbourne was told yesterday.

The congress, which was opened by Mrs Joan Robinson, former chairman of the Patients' Association, was expressed on the opening day of the congress during a session devoted to patients' opinions of the health service.

Mrs Robinson said the association receives about a hundred questions or complaints about the service every week. After the session she said the greatest difficulties occurred in primary care, although most general practitioners gave adequate care, and some were superb, there were failures in the family doctor service which sometimes resulted in a death that could have been avoided.

Some patients found it almost impossible to get a second opinion and patients were being restricted and their wishes ignored.

For example, a woman who was happy with her own family doctor was not allowed to register her baby with another doctor who she thought had greater child-care experience. She was obliged to transfer to the second doctor after being told that it would be "embarrassing" for two doctors to attend patients in the same family.

Doctors who make no difficulties about a change are invariably the best, Mrs Robinson said. One patient had been struck off three doctors' lists because she insisted that she wanted her baby at home after an unpleasant experience at a hospital confinement.

Because birth in hospital had become medical orthodoxy, families were rejected if they wanted something different. They were regarded as "difficult" and they were punished by doctors.

Mrs Robinson contrasted the British health service system with that in Germany, where a patient is registered with a doctor for three months at a time; and in France, where a patient can see a different doctor any time at his choice. Those systems gave the doctors an incentive to give the best quality care, she said.

Some of the difficulties from the conservative outlook of older members of the medical profession and from the system under which junior hospital doctors largely depend on consultants for advancement in their careers, Mrs Robinson said.

The Department of Health had done nothing to investigate or monitor the quality of family doctor care, she added. Perhaps, she continued, there could be inspectors of medical care to examine patients' records and disclose any wrong or inadequate details.

An increasing difficulty for some patients was that a doctor labelled them, for sometimes trivial reasons, as difficult, neurotic or hysterical, and the label remained with them for the rest of their lives.

Giving the address on smoking and disease at the inaugural meeting, Sir Richard Doll,

Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford University, said the assumption that nicotine was responsible for increased risk of valvular heart disease might be dangerous. It might distract attention from other factors, such as carbon monoxide, which some evidence suggested might be responsible.

Introduction of low-nicotine cigarettes might lead smokers to absorb more nicotine by smoking more, inhaling more deeply or puffing more often. The most effective policy might be to produce low-car cigarettes with an artificially high content of nicotine. Care must be taken not to make it so high that addiction was aggravated.

Sir Richard said cigarette advertising had been banned in nine countries and there was strong argument for banning it in Britain. It might, however, be just as effective, and secure a greater measure of agreement, if tobacco advertisements were taxed.

The rate of tax could be adjustable according to the harm attributable to the product and it would be important that the money raised should be used specifically for advertising preventive medicine.

Education about the effects of smoking had not, contrary to some opinion, failed. A position had been established, he thought, from which it could expect to advance with every prospect of early success. There had been a decrease in cigarette consumption in socio-economic group one of 14 per cent, from 4.3 to 3.7 a day.

It was not only doctors and health workers who were giving up smoking but teachers, writers, journalists, actors and producers and even university students.



Micky, Monty and Maxie, Kodiak bear triplets, out with their mother at Whipsnade Zoo.

## Woman who shot husband not guilty of murder

Mrs Valerie Pulling, aged 35, of Kewbury Hall, North Thoresby, Lincolnshire, was found not guilty at Lincoln Crown Court yesterday of murdering her husband after years of domination and ill treatment.

She had told the jury that she armed herself with a gun belonging to her husband, Anthony Pulling, aged 36, fearing that he was in for another beating and that he was so drunk that he would not be able

to stop. Only when she thought he was coming for her did she fire the gun.

Mr Justice May told the jury that it was important to assess the case without emotion, but he advised them to acquit if they felt it was not Mrs Pulling's intention to kill her husband or do him really serious injury.

The jury of eight men and four women announced their verdict after being out for just over three hours.

## Remand of six weeks in secrets case refused

Two journalists and a former soldier charged under the Official Secrets Act were remanded on bail yesterday for a fortnight at Tottenham Magistrates' Court, London, although the prosecution had asked for six weeks.

Miss Ann Butler asked for the longer adjournment, explaining that the case required the aid of the Attorney General. Most of the paper had been passed to him, but he needed further information.

The journalists, Duncan Campbell, aged 24, of Franklin Road, Brighton, and John Nicholas Crispin Aubrey, aged 31, of De Beauvoir Road, Islington, London, are both charged with the unauthorized receipt of classified information. John Berry, aged 33, formerly a soldier, and now a van driver, of Alexandra Park Road, Muswell Hill, London, is charged with communicating classified information to unauthorized persons.

## In brief

## Mayor's trip to races challenged

Labour councillors in the London borough of Bexley, which has announced the highest rate increase in London, of a quarter, are to question at the council meeting tonight why the mayor of the Tory-controlled council was taken to see the Grand National at the race-trackers' expense.

The council has disclosed that the mayor, Mrs Agnes Orange, her secretary and his wife were driven in the mayoral car to Aintree at a cost of £50 in wages and petrol.

## 'Brutal' girl jailed

Jacqueline Salmon, aged 19, of Hall Place, Paddington, London who took part in what the judge called a brutal assault on a partially sighted elderly woman was jailed for three years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. She was charged with robbery and assault.

## Demonstrator fined

Roger Evans, aged 33, of Hainsick Road, Leytonstone, London, was fined £10 at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court yesterday for threatening behaviour and having a bottle as an offensive weapon during the National Front march in north London last Saturday.

## Union 'appalled'

The National Union of Bank Employees (Nube) has told the Lord Chancellor that it was "amazed and appalled" at the giving of a suspended prison sentence to a bank robber at the Central Criminal Court earlier this month.

## Booming bonus

A competition to estimate the number of booms (noisy calls) emitted in 48 hours by 11 pairs of bitterns at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' reserve at Leighton Moss, Lancashire, is being organized this weekend to raise funds for the society's work.

## GLC's jubilee gift

The Greater London Council is contributing £100,000 to the silver jubilee fund "on behalf of the people of London", Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede, chairman of the council, announced yesterday.

## Mobility allowance up

Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, confirmed last night that the mobility allowance for disabled people will rise by £2 in November to £7 a week.

## £95,000 appeal

An NSPCC appeal for £95,000 was launched yesterday to "uplift" the battered children's centre at Fallowfield, Manchester.

## Live music to reach people unable to attend concerts

By Our Arts Reporter

A scheme to take live music out of its formal concert hall setting and into schools, colleges, hospitals, prisons and even private homes was launched in London last night by Mr Yehudi Menuhin.

He said the aim was to encourage the meeting of musicians and those who love music and to reach people who are not always able to attend live concerts.

The scheme is supported by the Musicians' Union and the Arts Council, which has paid half the formation cost of £5,000. An anonymous trust has

promised the other half as well as an annual donation. Cash will still be needed to cover running costs and to set up a fund for concerts and cases where would-be organizers cannot afford even the small fees involved.

Opportunities would be created for hundreds of artists, established and unknown, who will be selected by a panel of musicians. The artists will be paid a minimum fee of £25 and their expenses and given hospitality by their hosts. Mr Menuhin said he hoped there would be light music as well as music of the most serious kind.

## Shopworkers to campaign against Sunday traders

Local authorities who turn a blind eye to illegal Sunday trading may be taken to court by the shopworkers' union.

Markets held on football grounds, race courses and fields will be one of the chief targets of a campaign by the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw) which was announced at its conference in Scarborough yesterday.

Mr John Phillips, assistant general secretary, appealed to delegates to bring to the executive's notice instances of the law's being flouted.

On its third and final day the conference expressed concern over the increase in Sunday trading and called on the union's executive to see that the law is more rigorously enforced.

There was also expressed about late-night shopping, and delegates voted in support of premium payments for work done outside the defined standard day.

Mr Gary Alders (West Midlands) said a cashier in a supermarket might work up to 12 hours on late-opening days. Delegates later voted overwhelmingly for the abolition of the House of Lords. The motion came from Mr Harold Wear, aged 63, of Chester Co-operative branch.

## SNP's aim is to bring down the Government

Scottish nationalists in the Commons are to make every opportunity to try to bring down the Government, Mr Hamish Watt, the party's chief whip, said yesterday.

He was commenting on the decision of the 11 Scottish nationalists to vote for the Conservatives' reasoned amendment to the motion for the second reading of the Price Commission Bill today.

He thought it unnecessary to explain the party's detailed objections to the Bill. "It is simply that we want to bring the Government down. The only way to advance the claims of Scotland is to go for an early general election."

## Wilson burglary included S Africa paper

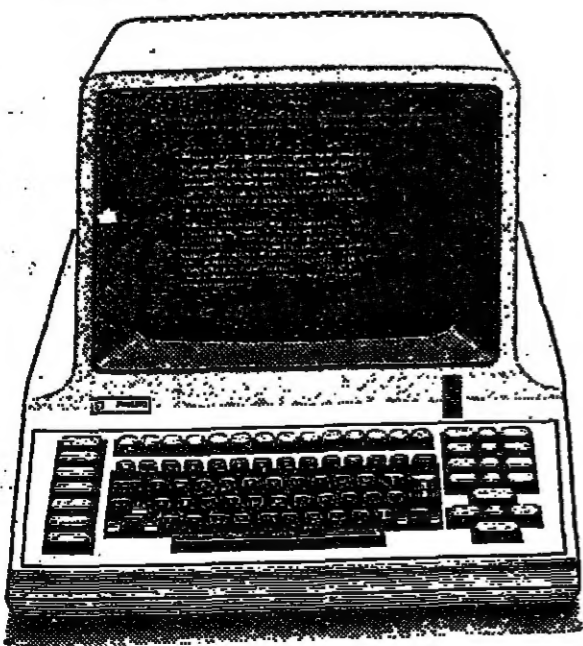
Senior detectives are investigating the theft of personal papers and bank statements from the country home of Sir Harold Wilson, at Grange Farm, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. The disappearance of the documents was reported in *The Times* yesterday.

The inquiry is being headed by a superintendent, and has involved Special Branch officers. The police said yesterday that the items stolen included a study document on South Africa. It is believed to name five anonymous promoters of the Club of Ten, the South African publicity organization.

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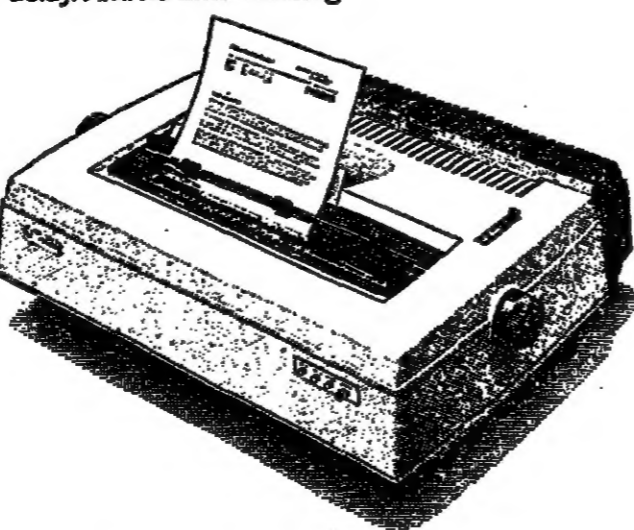
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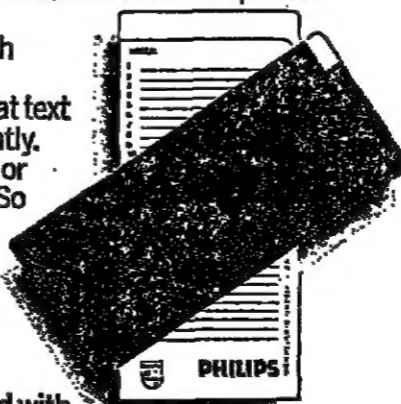
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## WEST EUROPE

## Butter to be cheaper than dearest margarine

By Hugh Clayton  
Some butter will cost less than the dearest margarine in British shops once the Government decides how to deal with the 81p a pound subsidy agreed by the EEC yesterday. It should lead to early price cuts of about 5p a lb. over the counter.

However, the reductions will soon be eroded by higher support prices for dairy farmers and the advance of British farm prices to EEC levels. The EEC's Agriculture Ministers said yesterday that the stage in that advance due in May would add 6p a lb. to butter.

The subsidy is complicated by the presence in Britain of stocks of butter which home and overseas suppliers bought before the subsidy was agreed. The size of the early price cut will depend on how the Government distributes the EEC subsidy between stocks bought at the old price and supplies bought at the new one.

The EEC farm-price package, of which the butter subsidy was part, was conducted by British farmers, food processors and consumer representatives yesterday. It was seen as a defeat for Mr. Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

He has won neither a freeze on farm support prices nor a promise of reform to eliminate surpluses of food created by the common agricultural policy.

The National Consumer Council, which is appointed by the Government, said yesterday: "Having to increase the price offered to farmers for products which are already in surplus is an absurdity." The Food Manufacturers' Federation said that the devaluation of the green pound agreed by the British Government would work against Britain's counter-inflation policy.

David Cross writes from Luxembourg. It was a final last-minute session that ministers of agriculture of the Nine completed their annual farm price review for the Community's nine million farmers—a month later than usual.

British objections to the offer of a butter subsidy of 7p a lb. had produced a complete deadlock at the end of a 50-hour marathon a month ago in Brussels.

British food prices are likely to rise generally by about 1 per cent over the next year, mainly as a result of new alignments of British farm prices to the much higher levels existing in other parts of the Community. This was a long standing commitment under Britain's entry terms to the Community.

The main points of the agreement, which will take effect from the beginning of next month, are:

Farm price increases: Hard wheat 12.5 per cent; soft wheat 3.5 to 4 per cent; barley 3.5 to 4.2 per cent; rye 4 per cent; maize 3.2 per cent; fruit and vegetables 2.5 to 4.5 per cent; milk 3.5 per cent (with a 1.5 per cent production tax from mid-September); sugar 3.5 to 4 per cent; beef 3.5 per cent; pork 5 per cent.

Dairy products: Introduction of premium encourage the non-delivery of milk; reconversion premiums to encourage a switch from milk to beef production; subsidies for the sale of milk in schools; temporary aid on national aids designed to promote higher milk production; and an 81p a lb. butter subsidy for consumers in Britain financed totally from EEC funds.

Rest: A continuation of the variable beef premium scheme for British producers for a further year.



Paris in the springtime: a Place de l'Opéra hotel employee adds to the unseasonable mountains of rubbish which are rising throughout the city because of a strike by refuse collectors.

## Little enthusiasm for M Barre's 12-month action programme

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, April 26

If M. Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, could have borrowed the warmth and eloquence of M. Mitterrand, the leader of the Opposition, and combined it with his own determination and economic common sense, the 12-month action programme which he submitted to the National Assembly today might have galvanized the Government majority and turned the tide against the advance of the left.

But the series of steps he outlined to check unemployment, help families, and aid pensioners without relaxing his anti-inflationary programme did not, to say the least, arouse enthusiasm among the Gaullists and the Centre and got a distinctly cool reception from the Gaullists.

The chairman of their parliamentary party, M. Claude Labbé, said it was "inadequate in the face of a situation which

requires more radical long term measures".

As expected, the Prime Minister called for a vote of confidence of the Government coalition to face up to their responsibilities. It will be taken on Thursday evening and its outcome is not in doubt, though the Gaullists made it clear that their support would be strictly conditional.

M. Barre made it clear that there could be no question of sacrificing the longer term objectives of putting the economy back on its feet to the short term one of winning the parliamentary elections next year.

He admitted "the persistence of a feeling of malaise, and even of anxiety, in the country due not merely to electoral or political causes" in spite of the progress made towards economic recovery. The economic "black spot" remained unemployment, especially among young people.

By exempting employers from payment of social security for school leavers for a year, recruiting 20,000 people for the public services, encouraging early retirement, encouraging unemployed immigrants to go home and extending professional training, the Government hoped to create 200,000 to 300,000 new jobs. These and other measures to help families and the old would be financed by an increase in fuel and petrol prices and a long term loan. They could be effective only with the cooperation of employers, unions and the public.

M. Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, taxed the Prime Minister with failing to achieve his own objectives. The Government had no long term plan to deal with unemployment. "You have a parliamentary majority. But we have the majority of the people and we will use it wisely in rejecting a plan which leads to disorder and poverty," he said.

## Disputes among Italian judges

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, April 26

Italy's acute problems of law and order, as well as the grave malfunctioning of the judicial system, have been joined by an unprecedented clash between a large part of the judiciary and the Government.

The most striking public indication of this clash is the open letter sent to the conservative Rome newspaper *Il Tempo* by Dr. Pietro Pascualino, Rome's Chief Public Prosecutor, in answer to criticisms of the Rome judges made by Signor Francesco Cossiga, Minister of the Interior, in Parliament.

A second instance is probably of greater practical importance. The group of conservative judges, which is the largest group within the National Association of Judges, withdrew at the weekend from executive positions in the Association for a variety of reasons which included a protest against the Government's proposal to introduce a system of "rotational justice" which would be the equivalent here of justices of the peace.

The conservative group is angry both with the Government and with the two other main groups which the association is divided into. They accuse these two groups of hav-

ing failed to support them on two issues.

One involves their demand for the resignation of Dr. Marco Ramat, the left-wing Florentine judge who, they say, should have given up his seat on the Superior Judicial Council while the council examined disciplinary charges raised against him.

The second issue on which the conservative group felt it was not supported by its allies within the association was that of the "honorary judges". According to the conservatives, a justice of the peace without judicial training or law degree would make the crisis within the system of justice worse because a new political element would inevitably enter it.

Ironically, the group of left and far-left-wing judges, the majority of whom are in the group into which Italy's judges are divided—having its own congress in Rimini at the weekend.

The meeting ended in a split. Ideologically, the members could not agree on whether the minority argued that they should support the traditional left-wing parties, meaning Socialists and Communists, or throw their weight against these parties as being revisionist and too moderate.

All this public quarrelling among judges may appear un-

realistic in the midst of a serious crime wave and an appalling situation of judicial paralysis. Only two days ago, Signor Pietro Ingrao, the Communist presiding officer of the Chamber of Deputies, drew the attention to the backlog of 2,500,000 cases pending in the courts. But at least it is effective in showing more clearly how unrealistic thinking is in some sections of the judiciary.

The Rome Public Prosecutor, however, can hardly be found guilty of a lack of realism. He was in fact replying to mis-quoted criticisms of the judiciary which were apparently based on inaccurate information.

The minister made his comments about the alleged laxity of the Rome judges on misleading reports of the judiciary's handling of a prosecution involving alleged political extremists.

The reality which his letter to *Il Tempo* reveals is that of a probably chronic state of latent impatience between Government and judiciary which has come dramatically to the surface for the first time. It involves both the everyday functioning of justice and the present Government's attempts at reform.

## Riot at strike-hit Danish newspaper

From Our Correspondent  
Copenhagen, April 26

Demonstrators fought with police and delayed distribution of the newspaper *Bertelske Tidende* for more than six hours today. A crowd of about 2,000 ignored police orders to move and in the fighting that followed several policemen and demonstrators were injured. Copies of the paper could be taken from the printing works only after the police had been withdrawn for two hours to let the crowd clear away.

It was the worst riot in Copenhagen since those during a meeting of the World Bank here in 1976. There were immediate demands that the Government preserve law and order. Mr. Anker Jørgensen, the Prime Minister, said later that the clash had been discussed at today's Cabinet meeting. "The Government must condemn such activities in the strongest possible way," he said. "Society cannot tolerate this form of conduct."

Referring to the sudden withdrawal of police in the face of the demonstrators, he said: "Leading police officers had to weigh the risk of bloodshed which was involved against the purpose of the operation."

He said that such demonstrations would not be tolerated in future and measures would be taken to stop demonstrators if a new attempt was made to blockade the newspaper.

The dispute at *Bertelske Tidende* has gone on since January 30. At the weekend agreement was reached between printing unions and most Danish newspapers but five which have dismissed their printing employees continue to be the target of union activities. The *Bertelske* group, which accounted for 25 per cent of Danish newspaper circulation, began to produce an emergency newspaper on Monday, using typewriters and hand-printing. Union leaders have condemned this as a gross provocation, equivalent to an open declaration of war.

Mr. Henning Fønsmark, *Bertelske Tidende's* editor, said today that the newspaper intended to publish normally, although in a reduced size tomorrow.

## OVERSEAS

## Mr Carter sees no point in holding Geneva meeting on Middle East without promise of real progress

Washington, April 26.—President Carter concluded his talks with King Hussein of Jordan and said that it might be better to abandon plans for a Geneva conference on the Middle East "unless we see some strong possibilities for substantial achievements."

As he told reporters after the departure of the King from the White House, he thought that "it would be a mistake to expect too much" because differences in the Middle East "are very wide and longstanding."

However, he noted that the Middle Eastern leaders he had talked to have expressed a strong desire to "make extraordinary efforts" to move toward peace in 1977.

Mr. Carter cited as among "things that have to be worked out" the question of Palestinian representation and whether Arab nations would take part in the Geneva talks as a group or whether some of the negotiations would be conducted on a bilateral basis.

Although he said that "he had been encouraged about peace prospects, he added that "to raise expectations too high would be, I think, potentially very damaging."

"The one thing I might add on which all the leaders seem agreed is that the more agree-

ment that we can reach before going to Geneva, the less argument there is going to be about the form of the Palestinian representation."

Mr. Carter added: "I think unless we see some strong possibilities for substantial achievements, before a Geneva conference can be convened—unless we can see that prospect, then, I think it would be better not to have the Geneva conference at all."

Earlier in his administration, Mr. Carter had talked firmly about plans for a Geneva meeting in the last half of 1977. During his pronouncements while King Hussein was here, he appeared to speak of it more as a desirable objective rather than a foregone conclusion.

The President said that after he completes his own round of talks with Middle Eastern leaders next month, he and his advisers will "consolidate our own strategy" as a prelude to another Middle East visit, expected in June or July, by Mr. Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State.

King Hussein appeared to be optimistic about chances of peace. In an exchange of views at a "working" White House dinner last night, the King said his discussions with Mr. Carter had given him more encouragement and more hope for a lasting peace in the troubled area.

It was the King's first public statement about the Middle East since his arrival here on Sunday for three days of talks with the Carter Administration.

In his toast, President Carter reiterated his caution about the success of international peace efforts. "But he said present conditions in the Middle East, such as the presence of moderate leaders—made extraordinary diplomatic initiatives, worthwhile."

King Hussein is the second Arab leader to open talks with the Carter Administration, and he will be followed by others. President Sadat of Egypt was in Washington two weeks ago, while President Assad of Syria and Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia are to meet the President in Europe next month.

Meanwhile, President Carter has agreed to sell Iran five of the most sophisticated aircraft in the American arsenal at a cost of over \$500m. Administration sources said today.

Although Mr. Carter was extremely critical of the Ford Administration for selling massive amounts of arms to Iran, he approved the sale to bolster Iranian radar capability near the Soviet Union. The aircraft involved is the so-called Avants (Airborne Warning and Control System)—Reuter and AP.

## Owen-Sadat talks on Russian threat

From Robert Fisk  
Cairo, April 26

Dr. David Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, continued his delicate, undemonstrative journey through the jungle of Middle Eastern politics today and found at least some common ground of agreement with President Sadat of Egypt. They spent more than an hour together and occupied part of this discussing the Russian military influence in Africa.

Dr. Owen, whose pronouncements have been notably, indeed deliberately, undramatic during his visit to the Middle East, said that he and the President had talked about the "growing concern" of the British and the Horn of Africa and about "The problem I'm having in Rhodesia."

The British, he said, in what obviously was a reference to Rhodesia, wanted to achieve peaceful transitions rather than violent solutions.

"In that area," he said, "we are all very worried about the extent of Soviet arms supplies around Africa." Dr. Owen did not mention President Sadat's insistence in Cairo, although the Egyptians have already suggested that they might be prepared to provide military aid to President Mobutu's regime.

The President, whose interest in the Soviet threat in Africa seemed to flower on the day he started his visit to President Carter in Washington, apparently commented on the current Egyptian attempts to repair relations with the Soviet Union, although Dr. Owen made no mention of this.

Dr. Owen had earlier spoken to Mr. Mamdouh Salem, the Egyptian Prime Minister, in Cairo.

Dr. Owen also discussed with the President the question of Palestinian representation at Geneva, although he maintained his role as an uncommitted observer on this.

Indeed, he seemed to be going to great lengths not to offend the Israelis when he spoke to journalists in the gardens afterwards. "I think he (the President) understands our relationship in the Middle East which are in fact very close with the Arab world. We will maintain this relationship between the British Government and the Israeli Government."

Dr. Owen left Cairo this afternoon for Damascus where he is to have talks with President Assad of Syria before returning to London late to-morrow night.

## Mayor sees little chance of city being recognized as the Israeli capital

## Jerusalem claims a golden age

From Eric Marsden  
Jerusalem, April 26

"We are not recognized by any government in the world as the capital of Israel, and only half by the Israeli Government," Mr. Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem, used the plural pronoun not as an imperial prerogative but in the manner of a boxer's referee, alleging bias by the manager.

The underlying pessimism of some of his comments suggested that the Mayor was "robbed" may later be forced from him.

Mr. Kollek, who was conducting correspondents on a tour to mark the tenth anniversary of Israeli rule over the whole of the Holy City, had been asked why, after all this time, the main foreign embassies were still in Tel Aviv, as well as Israel's Defence Ministry and many of its paramilitary institutions.

He saw little prospect of any change of heart by the world powers over Israel's claim to Jerusalem as its capital city, but disclosed that a few plots of about three-quarters of an acre were being reserved for future embassies just in case (some embassies including the American, maintain an unofficial *de-facto* presence in Jerusalem).

The mayor was scathing about the foot-dragging of Israeli officials and the lack of Government consultation over moves affecting the city. He is seeking a law compelling all Government departments to consult his council before taking action relating to Jerusalem.

At present, Mr. Kollek said, the city is "a patchwork of Jewish, Arab and Christian quarters, with no overall plan, no zoning, no control of building heights, no control of parking, no control of traffic, no control of the environment."

Whatever the future, the mayor regards Jerusalem as enjoying a golden age at present and rates it the achievement of the decade: a paved walk around the ancient walls, gardens and playgrounds, piped water and electricity to outlying areas, new schools for Jews and Arabs.

He bagged and decorated for the three weeks between Israel's Independence Day and "Jerusalem Day" on May 12, the city is bursting with cultural activities.

But not all Jerusalem is *en fête*. The Arab population of nearly 100,000 is apathetic, if not hostile. It regards the celebration as confined to the Jewish population, given as 260,000 in the latest municipal figures. Mr. Kollek agrees that Arabs cannot be expected to join the festivities marking the city's "reunification," which has a different meaning to them.

But he has a rosier view than most observers of the Arab mood and situation. Last week on Independence Day, which the mayor says "should be a day of mourning for the Arabs," he strolled along the main shopping street in East Jerusalem, found everything open and was invited into some shops for a coffee.

He could hardly have been expected to mention that the shops were open because the owners had been given "dire warnings" which penalties closing would bring.

With Mr. Kollek as guide, the tour skirted the Arab areas where new housing estates for exclusive Jewish occupation are being built to underline Israel's sovereignty. Of the 34,000 units planned, about 11,000 are already populated and another 6,000 are under construction.

Asked why housing for Arabs had been built to match this programme, the mayor said Arabs did not like living in large apartment blocks but preferred to build their own houses. The Arab population of the city had given 2,800 mortgages to help them.

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## Inquiry opens into wartime record of Dutch collector

From Sue Masterman  
The Hague, April 26

An inquiry into the wartime activities of a Dutch art collector who in 1951 emigrated to South Africa, has been ordered by Baron van der Feltz, The Hague general prosecutor. The inquiry is expected to last about a month.

Mr. Jacob Abraham van Tilburg has given his resignation to the University of Pretoria.

It was confirmed today in The Hague that there had been informal contact between the University of Pretoria, and the Dutch Embassy there last January. The university was then told that there was "nothing officially wrong" with the collection's origins.

Mr. van Tilburg was arrested

after the war on charges of collaboration with the Germans. A charge of illegal possession of Jewish property was dropped. Mr. van Tilburg was reported to have told a postwar tribunal that because of his arrest immediately after the war, he had not had the chance to return Jewish property he had in fact kept to his private collection.

Baron van der Feltz has said that the inquiry has been opened in connection with new allegations concerning crimes against humanity, an offence which does not lapse in law.

"This is a new aspect which was not brought before the postwar tribunal," Baron van der Feltz said. He had sent a team of Special Branch detectives to investigate.

## Vietnam leader pleased with his Paris talks

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, April 26

Mr. Pham Van Dong, the Prime Minister of Vietnam, was the guest of honour at a luncheon given by President Giscard d'Estaing at the Elysée Palace and attended by General Marcel Bigeard, the paratrooper general dropped into Dien Bien Phu and taken prisoner by the Victorians.

Later Mr. Pham Van Dong had a two-hour talk with President Giscard d'Estaing. "Everything has gone very well, better even than I expected. I would like to say a great deal has been done during this visit," he said.

The Association of Former Servicemen who served in Indo-China issued a protest today against the visit.

## Britain wants Bonn to help again with BAOR costs

From Dan van der Var  
Bergen, West Germany  
April 26

Britain will press the reluctant West Germans for one more offer of agreement to help with the foreign exchange costs of keeping troops in Germany, Mr. Callaghan said today.

The Prime Minister was addressing a press conference at an army tent on the Luneberg Heath towards the end of his tour of British forces in Germany.

He confirmed that the offset costs issue had not come up in his discussions with Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, who accompanied him at the beginning of his inspection yesterday.

"I would like to get one more agreement," he said. He

was sure that the West Germans realized the burden to Britain's balance of payments—£550m a year—in keeping 55,000 troops, 10,000 airmen and their dependants and equipment in Germany. The last official agreement expired last year and there has been little progress on a new one.

The Prime Minister also praised the spirit, morale and efficiency of British forces which, he said, were making an important contribution to common defence in Nato.

Mr. Callaghan said he had not had any second thoughts about Government defence cuts as a result of his trip, and the issue had not been raised by the officers and men he met. He flew back to London this evening.

## Neo-Francoist call for a strong state

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, April 26

Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, the leader of the Neo-Francoist Popular Alliance, told King Juan Carlos today that Spain needed a "strong state".

Speaking for the seven parties which make up the alliance, Señor Fraga Iribarne told the King during an audience at the Zarzuela Palace: "There is only justice and freedom within the rule of the law. Only a strong state can guarantee liberty within the law."

The main theme of the Popular Alliance as its leaders' barnstorm the country well before the official opening of the election campaign is law and order and the threat posed to this by the legalization of the Spanish Communist Party.

The alliance made its first appearance in Barcelona last night, the first of its leaders, all former ministers like Señor Fraga on the platform, there were shouts of "Franco, Franco" during one of the speeches.

Señor Fraga said the alliance did not regard Francoism as a "dirty word," and wanted to save the best of it.

Señor Suarez, the Prime Minister, now on an official visit to Mexico, said last night that he was in favour of the next Cortes (parliament) drawing up a new constitution.

He added that the period of transition to democracy would not end with the June general elections "because the consolidation of democracy requires a constitution."

This was the first time that the Prime Minister had publicly committed himself to a

new constitution to replace the present one drawn up by Franco. He let his views on the constitution be known after he had confirmed that he would stand for election to the Congress of Deputies.

His visit to the United States, which starts today and ends on Saturday, is seen in Spain as the opening of his electoral campaign, with the added support of the Carter Administration.

Señor Rafael Alberti, the Communist poet and political exile, was reported today to be on the point of returning from Rome to Madrid. A member of the Communist Party's executive committee, he fled into exile in 1939. Together with Señor Dolores Ibarruri, known as "La Pasionaria," Señor Alberti is the most famous Spaniard still in exile.

## SS rally plan in Italy 'an act of provocation'

From Our Own Correspondent  
Rome, April 26

An official of the Italian Partisans' Association today described plans to organize a rally of former members of the Nazi Waffen SS at Varina, near Brescia, in the Alto Adige, as "an act of grave provocation."

Signor Mario Zadra, a leading member of the Partisans' Association in Bolzano, capital of the Alto Adige province with a big German-speaking population, promised a counter-demonstration if the Italian authorities failed to ban the meeting.

The SS rally, scheduled to take place from May 28 to May 30, is to be attended by some 300 former members of the Alpine Division "Waffen SS Gebirgs-Division". News of the planned rally had reached the Partisans' Association through an Austrian anti-Nazi organization based in Innsbruck.

According to Signor Zadra, meetings of Nazi ex-servicemen associations had taken place in Alto Adige but hitherto they had been decently camouflaged as tourist excursions. This time it appears that the intention is to organize the SS rally openly, with participants expected from Bavaria and the Austrian Tirol.

The news has caused particular indignation here as Italians marked yesterday the thirtieth anniversary of the rising organized by the Italian Resistance movement against Fascism and the German occupation.

## King of Spain sued over jumbo jet crash

King Juan Carlos and the Spanish Government have been named as defendants in a civil suit filed in the federal court here in connection with the Canary Islands jumbo jet disaster last month.

Also named in the suit yesterday were Pan American World Airways and the Dutch KLM airline which operated the Boeing 747 that collided on the airport runway on March 27, killing 579 people.

The suit was filed by Mr. Walker Michael West, special administrator of the estate of John Houston, a California woman, who was killed in the crash.

All the defendants are charged with negligence and dereliction of duty in providing for the safety of visitors to the Canary Islands.—Reuter

## Zaire expects to end war within a few weeks

Kinshasa, April 26.—Zaire troops, backed up by Moroccan, have opened another front in the Shaba war. Reliable sources here expected them to recapture Kapanga any day now.

The fall of Kapanga, the ancient capital of the Lunda people and the seat of the Katangese rebels, was described by a Western military expert as inevitable.

His assessment was expressed after the recapture yesterday, in a separate sector of the fighting further south between Kolwezi and the Angolan border, of the town of Mushasha.

The outcome of the war was no longer in doubt, the military expert added. Within the next few weeks, the combined forces were likely to control the area once held by the Katangese.

This speculation followed the return here last night of Mr. Nguzo, the Foreign Affairs Commissioner, from visits to Senegal, Togo, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia. Mr. Nguzo is now due to meet Colonel Joe Goke

## OVERSEAS

## Hopes of a solution to Pakistan crisis before weekend march

From Richard Wigg  
Rawalpindi, April 26

Some hopes have been raised that a negotiated way out of Pakistan's six-week political crisis might be found before next Saturday's fresh trial of opposition supporters will face troops and police during their planned march to the home of Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister.

Mr Bhutto spent more than two hours talking last Saturday to the Mufri Mahmud, president of the opposition Pakistan National Alliance who has been imprisoned since March 26, since Mr Bhutto's arrest.

The meeting took place at the Sialkot police college where Mr Bhutto has been brought together almost all the leading representatives of the nine-party alliance in an evident demonstration of his power and to focus their common anger.

Sometimes spoken of as the right wing's candidate for the post of Prime Minister because of his authoritarian personality, Mr Bhutto is the subject of all the headlines in the alliance leadership. But he indicated last night, while refusing Government efforts to move him from the Lahore jail where he would accede to a personal request from the Mufri.

Other leaders at Sialkot, in buildings well guarded by police and situated at the end of a long valley lined by black hills, include Nawabzada Asadullah Khan, who was brought there immediately after his arrest in Lahore early on Sunday, and the Begum Wali

Khan, wife of the imprisoned leader of the banned National Awami Party, who is still in Hyderabad.

It is understood that the opposition leaders are already considering the points made by Mr Bhutto which could amount to a new offer. However, leading opposition figures still in Rawalpindi continued to insist that Mr Bhutto should resign before new elections are held.

Aides of Air Marshal Asghar Khan did not conceal a certain fear that their leader might be left out in the cold. If he does go to Sialkot and participate in the opposition talks it could be a crucial factor; the other leaders have until now continually been looking over their shoulders, well aware that if they stayed together they might sell a deal to their supporters in the country. But that the Air Marshal did not join in the night became a popular hero by denouncing any switch in tactics.

The Opposition has at least one card in its hand: its leaders know that Mr Bhutto would be reluctant to extend the curfew and martial law in Rawalpindi where the foreign diplomatic community lives, so that the big march on Saturday could be more readily contained.

Government officials have made representations to the British Embassy here over BBC broadcasts and commentators on Pakistan's crisis. Following the line of Mr Bhutto's recent attack on the BBC—whose Urdu service commands a wide public while censorship is imposed on all local media—official sources maintain that the broadcasts constitute interference in the country's internal affairs.

Nawaz-Vaqt, which appeared today with four blank spaces on its front page alone, told the Government in a leading article that censorship was self-defeating.

## Mugabe man said to have been poisoned

From Our Own Correspondent  
Johannesburg, April 26

A leading member of Mr Robert Mugabe's wing of the Rhodesian Patriotic Front, Mr Rex Nkhomo, is alleged to have been poisoned by a colleague, according to a senior nationalist source who has been visiting Gaborone.

The source said Mr Nkhomo, a military leader of the guerrilla forces operating from Mozambique, named his poisoner before he died. Shortly afterwards President Samora Machel of Mozambique is reported to have ordered the arrest of a member of the coordinating committee of the Patriotic Front.

The arrested man was released from prison in Zimbabwe last year after being acquitted of charges relating to the assassination of Mr Herbert Chitepo.

## Journalist flees to Botswana

Johannesburg, April 6.—Mr

Nat Serache, a black journalist formerly employed by the opposition Front Line Movement, fled from South Africa after facing charges of incitement to racial hostility, and is now in Botswana, it was reported here today.

The newspaper said that Mr Serache, aged 32, assistant administrative secretary of the militant anti-apartheid Black People's Convention, was on bail

Conducted tour to dispel 'Devil's Island' tab on S Africa's maximum security jail  
A glimpse at the life of prisoners of Robben Island

Robben Island, April 26.—The South African Government, sensitive to allegations that it runs a "Devil's Island" for political prisoners, has finally allowed outsiders to see its maximum security jail. All its inmates are non-whites, convicted enemies of the state.

The fenced-in group of single storey buildings is on Robben Island, a 232 acre piece of land seven miles north of Cape Town.

Major-General Jannie Roux, one of South Africa's deputy commissioners for prisoners, conducted 24 local and foreign correspondents round Robben Island yesterday. He said it was a unique event as the prison had not been seen at close quarters by the media since it opened on April 1, 1961.

In that time opponents of the South African Government have dubbed it "South Africa's Devil's Island" after the notorious French penal colony, partly because of the secrecy surrounding it, and partly because of allegations of ill-treatment of prisoners inside.

One of the conditions under which the journalists were taken to the island was that they submit their copy to the Prisons Department for vetting by General Roux "for security reasons".

The prison holds 370 black, Asian and Coloured men in brightly-painted, freshly-painted, barrack-type buildings. Thirty-two of the inmates have been sentenced to stay for the rest of their lives. They include Nelson Mandela, president of the banned African National Congress; Walter Sisulu, secretary-general of the



The inside view: A typical single cell for men serving life sentences on Robben Island.

ANC; Govan Mbeki, ANC's national chairman and Andre Mlangeni, also of the ANC. All were convicted in 1964 on four counts of sabotage and conspiracy to start a violent revolution.

Mr Mandela, described by a judge at a previous trial as "the leader and figurehead of his people," was clearing wood from a pathway with a shovel when the journalists saw him. He tried to conceal himself behind a tall rockery as they passed.

The journalists were not allowed to interview inmates.

Mr Mandela's cell was shown to the journalists along with others in a special section of the prison.

Mr Mandela and 29 other prisoners have a life apart from the rest of the inmates of Robben Island. While the others live in large dormitories, they occupy individual cells in their own block with their own recreation hall, dining area and toilets.

Asked how the "special" prisoners were selected, the general said: "We must think of the effect they might have on the other men. We prefer

Coloured townships. It was built to hold 630 people. The prisoners work a five-day week, with Saturday and Sunday off. Officers said the working day for prisoners was from 7.15 am until 4 pm, with one hour for lunch and smoking breaks.

The prison officers are usually not armed, General Roux said. None of the officers seen by the reporters yesterday carried guns.

The prisoners are not allowed newspapers, radios or television for security reasons. They are permitted a maximum of two visits a month of half an hour each in which talk of politics and current events is forbidden. Only two letters a month are allowed in and two out, subject to censorship.

The prison is surrounded by twin steel-mesh fences about 20ft high and the same distance apart. The island's greatest security fence is the sea. It is three miles to the nearest land and the waters are frequently rough and cold.

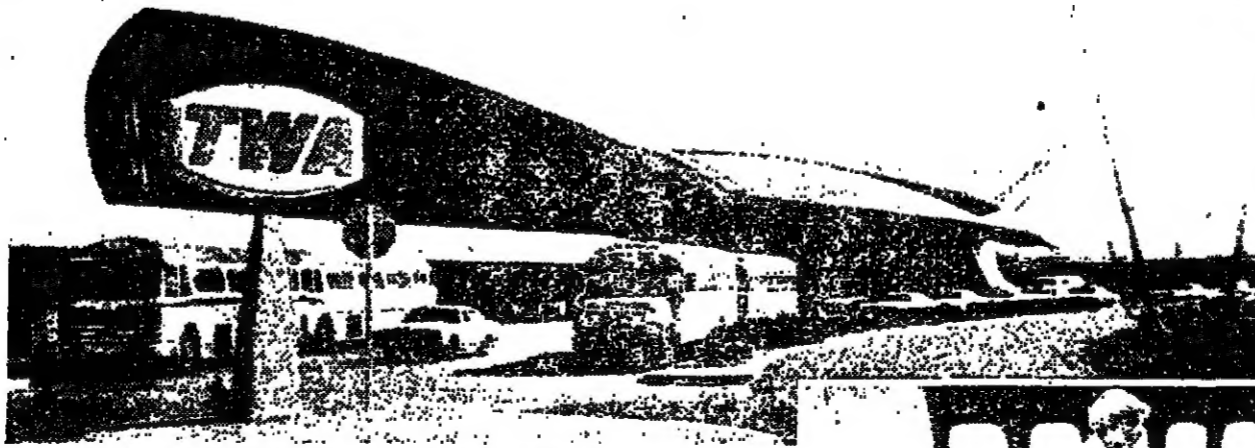
Nobody has escaped from Robben Island, General Roux said. Only two have tried, 15 years ago, when ordinary criminals were confined here. Their makeshift raft capsized a few yards from the island and they swam back into the arms of their jailers.

The visit by the journalists had been kept a close secret until just before two Dakota aircraft flew them in from Cape Town. General Roux said this was to ensure that the journalists saw Robben Island as it was, adding that neither prisoners nor staff was prepared for the press.—Reuter.

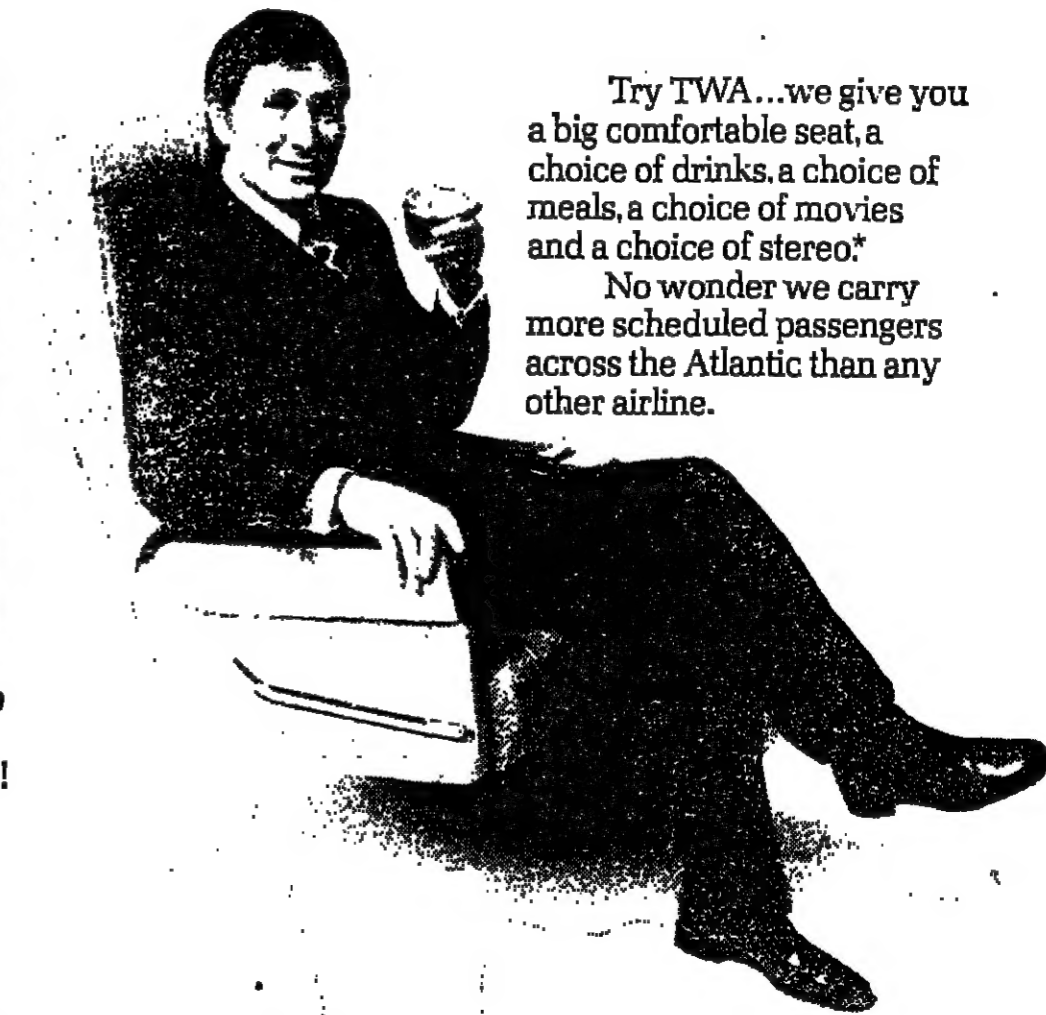
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## Angolan-Yugoslav warning on intervention in Africa

Belgrade, April 26.—Angola

and Yugoslavia have declared that competition and conflicts in Africa could lead to "intervention from outside with foreseeable consequences for Africa and peace and security in the world".

In a joint statement issued here last night, President Neto of Angola and President Tito said non-aligned countries should not allow themselves "to be used by forces who do not like the policy of non-alignment".

At the end of a four-day visit to Yugoslavia by President Neto, the two leaders emphasized the importance of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in the struggle for African liberation and the fight against "imperialist pressures and interferences".

Their statement condemned "racist, imperialist and neo-colonialist forces" for hindering the road to independence and freedom of the people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Namibia

(South-West Africa) and South Africa. It called on non-aligned and African countries to support liberation movements in the south of Africa.

The differences between some socialist countries should not hinder their mutual cooperation, and progressive forces of the world should help each other, it said. President Tito and President Neto also called on developing nations to strengthen mutual economic cooperation, relying on their own resources, "in order to create stronger positions for negotiations with developed countries".

Warsaw: President Neto, on the first full day of an official visit to Poland, travelled to the Baltic port of Gdynia where he toured a shipyard. The Polish press has suggested that fishing is a promising area of cooperation between the two countries, and today's visit indicated that the supply of Polish-built fishing vessels to Angola could be under consideration.—Reuter.

## Senators accept Dr Brewster as London envoy

Washington, April 26.—Dr

Kingman Brewster, chosen by President Carter as his Ambassador to Britain, had his appointment approved by the Senate foreign relations committee today. The way is now clear for endorsement by the full Senate.

Dr Brewster is president of Yale University.

Without debate the committee also approved Mr Philip Alston, an Atlanta lawyer, as Ambassador to Australia and Mrs Anne Cox Chambers, a newspaper heiress, as envoy to Belgium.

Senator Jacob Javits (Republican, New York) questioned Mr Alston and Mrs Chambers about their membership of Atlanta clubs alleged to discriminate against blacks. Mrs Chambers said she would reconsider her membership, but Mr Alston said he believed his membership was irrelevant.—Reuter.

## Roman Catholics debate their role in Africa

From Our Own Correspondent

Johannesburg, April 26 Roman Catholic archbishops and bishops from eight southern African nations began a three-day meeting in Manzini, Swaziland, today, to examine the growing problems of the subcontinent and the role of the Church there.

The countries represented are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia (South-West Africa), Rhodesia, South Africa and Swaziland.

The meeting takes place at a crucial time for the Catholic Churches in southern Africa. The emergence of Marxist-Leninist regimes in Angola and Mozambique has been accompanied by a marked reduction of the Church's influence in these countries. In Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa, the Church has increasingly taken the side of the blacks in the growing racial confrontation.

## Carter plan to curb cost of hospital care

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, April 26 President Carter has proposed legislation to hold down the rise in the cost of hospital care in the United States. The cost of a day's stay in an American hospital has risen by about 1,000 per cent since 1950, compared with 136 per cent in the Consumer Price Index. In the past decade the rise has 300 per cent, to an average of \$158 (£93).

The total hospital bill for the nation reached \$55,400m last year \$254 for every American, increasing 15 per cent last year. It continues to rise more than twice as fast as the general cost of living. Mr Carter's proposals would limit future price increases to 9 per cent a year.

The suggestion has already aroused the ire of the medical lobbies, who claim that any such legislation would reduce the quality of medical care. The general public, utterly convinced that medicine is the most profitable racket in the United States, will doubtless

support Mr Carter, while being sceptical of his chances of success. According to the Government, the chief cause of this very high rate of inflation is the insurance system. Bills are paid by insurance companies on fixed scales, which go up every year. Because there is no direct money relationship between patient and doctor, the doctor (or hospital administrator) feels no compunction at overcharging, or at insisting that every patient should be subjected to every conceivable medical test and treatment, however expensive or unnecessary.

Those who advocate a national health insurance scheme believe that closer regulation by the Government would reduce waste. Mr Carter has promised to work for health insurance, and this proposal is seen as a step in the right direction.

One factor which will probably help in reducing the inflation of medical costs is the rapid inflation in the numbers of doctors.

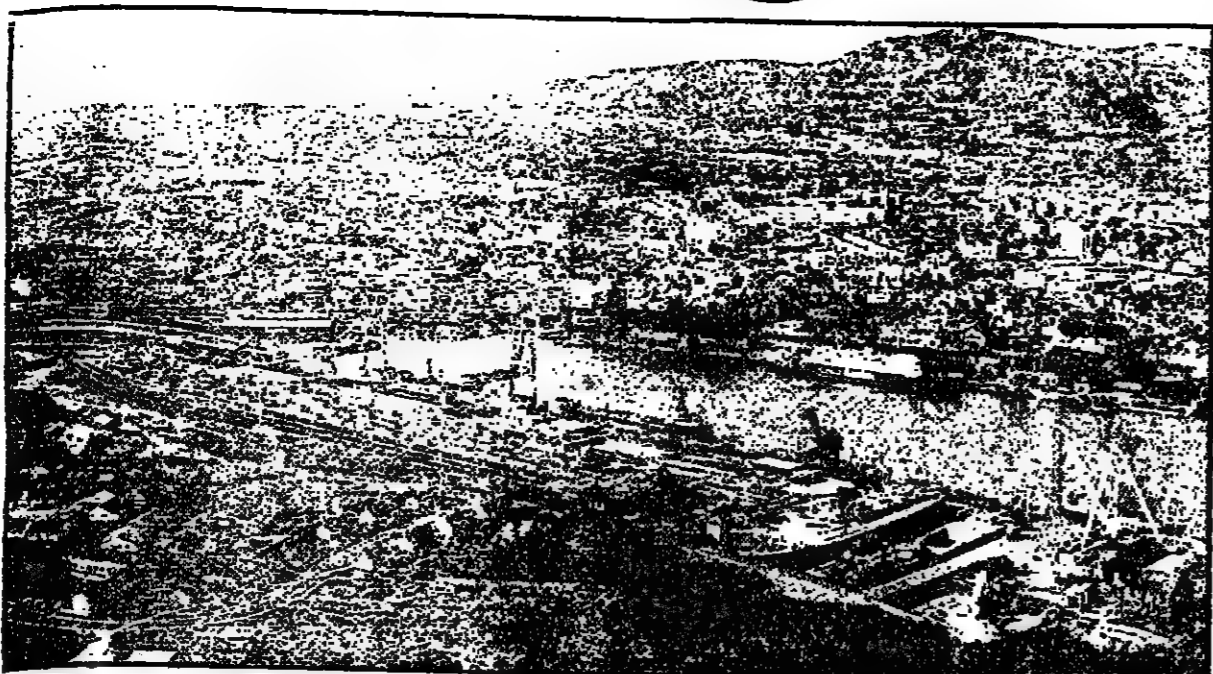




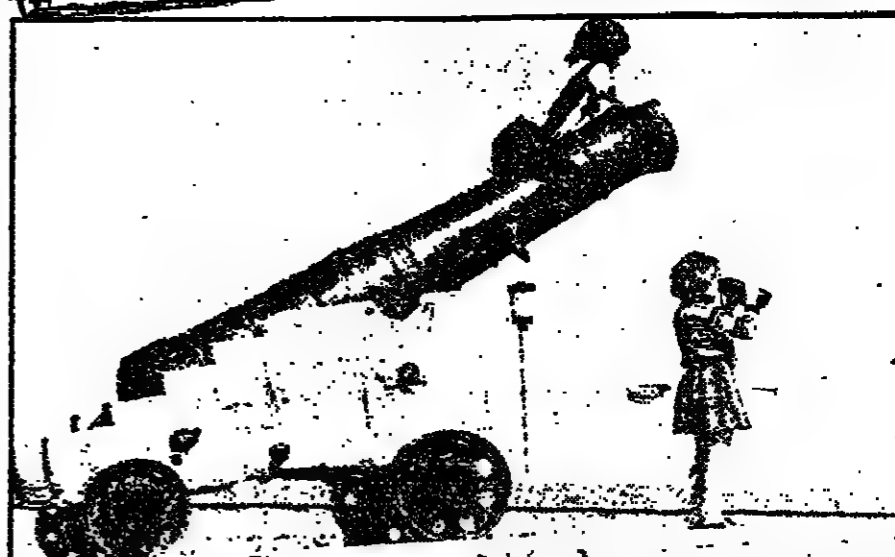


# Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire

A Special Report to mark the inaugural sailing of the St Columba



An aerial view of Holyhead. Centre: old people watch the world go by. Right: the St Columba enters Dun Laoghaire harbour. Top: Holyhead's only street market; a Georgian door in Dun Laoghaire; children at play in the Irish town.



special photographs: Brian Harris



## New luxury on a route like no other

by Michael Baily

British Rail Sealink today introduces what even its competitors concede is the largest and most luxurious ship ever to operate on the Irish Sea.

At 8,000 tons, with room for 2,400 passengers and 335 cars, the St Columba is nearly twice the size of its predecessors, and lavishly endowed with those amenities—bars, lounges, shops, restaurants, disco, television, comfortable seating and attractive furnishing—which have become the norm on other routes. The Irish route is not like others

around the British coast, an indication of which is not

only that it is only at this late stage that it is getting a comparable ship, but also that, against the trend elsewhere, the St Columba is still a two-class vessel.

Since regular ferry services were first started across the Irish Sea in the mid-nineteenth century, the base load has always been Irish people travelling to and from their work in England, with a smaller layer of business travellers and tourists.

Until recently, therefore, the typical ship on the route had a smallish first class with decent old-fashioned comfort, and a larger tourist in which at least in the holiday seasons when Irish workers returned home in droves, conditions could be fairly rough.

On the St Columba there is not much difference in the standard of the two

classes, but that there are two sets it apart from other ferry routes around the coast with the exception of Harwich-Hook, where the regular business traveller is apparently prepared to pay more for something more. On the Irish route, too, the commercial judgment is clearly that enough tourists and business travellers are prepared to pay more than the Irish nurse or building worker to whom, on what is after all only a three-and-a-half hour crossing, economy is the prime requirement.

The mix of passengers has fluctuated widely in recent years. The vigorous efforts of the Irish Tourist Board to carve out for the Emerald Isle a substantial share of the expanding world tourist market in the 1950s and 1960s were so successful that of the travellers

1970 about half were tourists.

Since then the combined effect of the troubles and recession have reduced the total traffic by about a fifth, and the tourist share by much more. The British industries in which Irish workers are particularly strongly represented—the construction and motor industries, for example—have been particularly hit by the recession, so that fewer Irish people were working in them, and rising fares and falling real incomes probably curtailed the travel of those who were.

Meanwhile, whatever the risk or absence of it to themselves, many English people clearly decided that they did not want to spend their holidays among people of violent and hostile tendencies.

Tourist traffic last year was still about 250,000 down on 1969 despite a sharp rise in continental visitors, who now make up nearly a fifth of the total, over the past five years. The coach tours of Ireland so popular in the 1960s, have almost disappeared.

Against such a background it must have taken both courage and optimism on the part of British Rail to order a ship which, together with associated terminal improvements, represents an investment of more than £20m in the Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire trade. Yet the thinking could turn out to be right.

Replacing two smaller ships with one larger one saves on both capital and operating costs, since it not only costs less to build but requires less manpower,

fuel, and maintenance. If the one big ship can be kept reasonably full—and at sea without breakdown—it makes a lot of sense. There are, however, inevitable drawbacks.

One is that you cannot lay up half a ship when trade is slack—though British Rail has gone a long way towards that by agreeing with the unions to close half the passenger accommodation off-peak. This is especially important in the Irish, where the level of peak traffic is four or five times that of the off-peak, and where, even with the new capacity, advance booking is still going to be necessary at the peak of the peak.

Another is that one ship cannot be in two places at once, so that whereas formerly there was a night boat

going each way, on which passengers could slumber until morning if they liked, the St Columba will turn round at 3 am, splitting the night in half for both east-bound and west-bound travellers.

Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire is the prime route between Britain and Ireland in terms of traffic carried, no doubt because it is the shortest, and the St Columba will undoubtedly increase its attraction, first by offering two sailings each way each day throughout the year, with a high-class ship, secondly by offering drive-on facilities on all of them. The latter has the additional advantage of taking lorries as well as cars, thus improving the economy of the operation, especially in the off-peak.

Nevertheless Sealink's managers will no doubt need to

follow at least part of the rule of the sixth-century religious community to which Columba belonged: pray daily, fast daily, study daily, work daily. The extra capacity brought by the St Columba, especially since the rival British and Irish Line has also ordered a big ship for delivery next year, will take some filling. But a successful start has already been made.

In January a new fare schedule came into operation offering a range of cheap fares for family, period, and off-peak travel, together with some attractive package holidays in farmhouses and cottages. With only three months of the year gone the effects are already being felt in the operation, especially in the off-peak.

After years of stationary

40 per cent in passenger carryings on the route in the first quarter of the year compared with last, 45 per cent in cars, and more than 50 per cent in lorry and trailer freight.

Competition between the two state-owned lines will continue to be tough. Ireland's B and I already has three fairly modern drive-on ferries with a fourth on the way for its two longer overnight routes (Liverpool-Dublin and Swansea-Cork), while Sealink has its other short routes, with the drive-on ferry Avalon, between Fishguard and Rosslare.

That must be good for the users. As for the operators, they will no doubt continue to improve their service and marketing, and look forward to the recovery of tourism and the economy.

The author is Shipping Correspondent, The Times.

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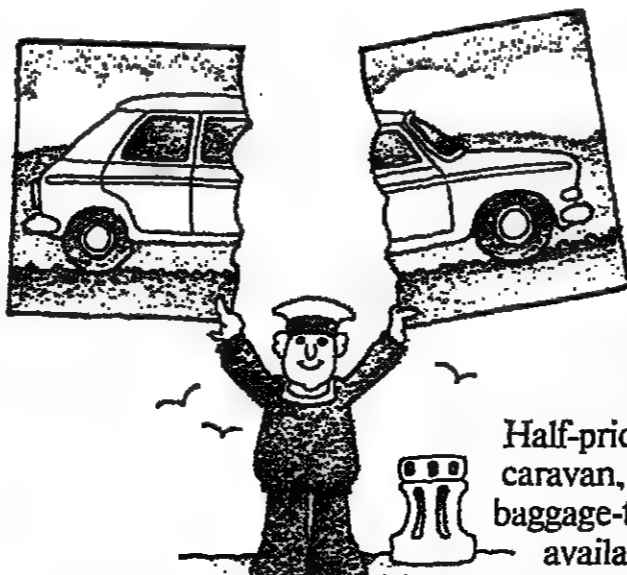
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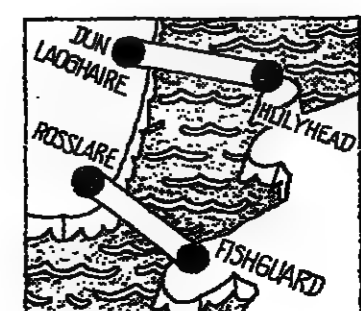
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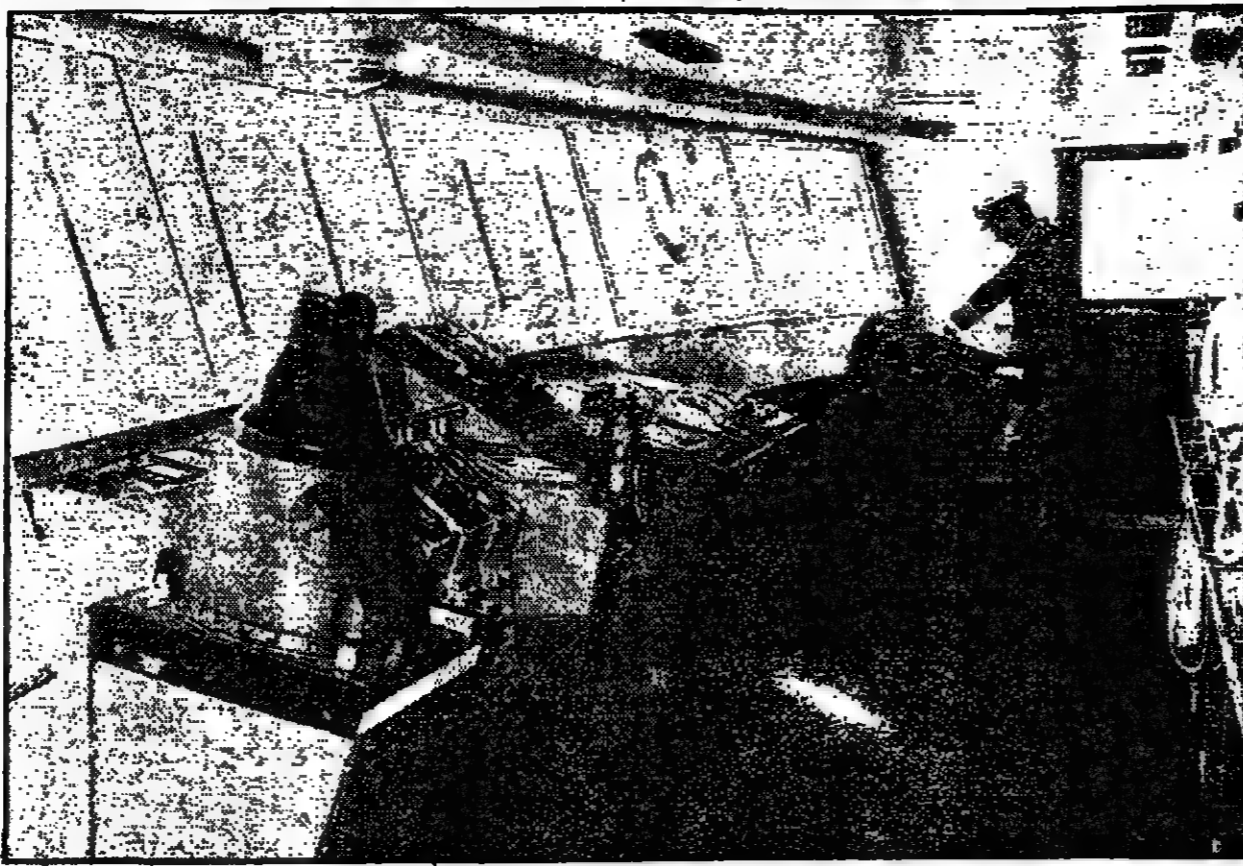


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Sealink is a consortium of British, French, Belgian and Dutch state shipping undertakings and is the world's largest short sea ferry operator. British Rail's share alone is more than 40 ships with a turnover of about £100m a year, operating 27 different sea, estuarial and lake services. The shipping division has several ports of its own, of which Holyhead and Fishguard are two, and over the years has contributed a small but steady profit to railway finances. In 1975 because of rising prices and falling traffic, it made a £5m loss which was substantially reduced last year.



The St Columba was ordered in 1975 from Aalborg Vaerft, Denmark, after British yards failed to meet price and delivery dates and was launched by Mrs David Kirby, wife of the shipping division general manager, last July. It has a gross tonnage of 8,000, carries 2,400 passengers and 335 cars or a mix of cars and 36 lorries. Its service speed is 19½ knots, its length 424ft, and it has bow and stern rudders, fin stabilizers, and twin diesel engines of 9,000 hp. It has bar lounges, tea and coffee lounges, and television lounges in each class, a restaurant, a cafeteria, a discotheque, and a nursing room for mothers. It has 2,900 seats, 54 sleeping berths and 80 crew, and cost £19m.

Fore bridge of the new British Rail ferry St Columba scheduled to start on the Holyhead—Dun Laoghaire run on May 2.



## Passport to prosperity

by Glyn Owen

As master of British Rail's largest ship for their Irish Sea services, Captain John Evans is entitled to be called a commodore. "I don't particularly care for the term," he says, "I got command of the St Columba for good attendance more than anything else. I was the senior officer and all things being equal, I was automatically in-line."

He shares the command of what many British Rail officials believe is the finest ferry in the world with two other permanent masters and two relief masters. He may have received his command for good attendance but this Holyhead-born seaman probably understands the vagaries of the Irish Sea better than most men.

Since 1948, when he was third officer on a British Rail cargo vessel, he has crossed the Irish Sea thousands of times in all its moods—the past 17 years in command.

Going to sea is a tradition in his family, and there was never any question of him doing anything else. "In my young days going to sea was the only thing," he says. "I was a sailor, and the sea has been my life since I was a boy."

The sea has been his life since he joined a shipping firm in Liverpool in 1938. Throughout the war he was with the Merchant Navy and, in 1945, he was in Singapore before returning to Britain in 1948.

His duties, rather sadly, that night of the pleasure of life at sea has disappeared. In my day, we went to faraway places and perhaps stayed there for two or three days. Nowadays there are very fast ships—container vessels—staying for just a day at a port then going off somewhere else.

Captain Evans is happy with the climax of his 39 years at sea—the command of the £19m St Columba. "It is a superb ship and I do not believe British Rail has a ship remotely as good. British Rail has always had great ships and, in their way, the best," he says. "I am really concerned about the future of the ship as a symbol of a change in the fortunes of his home port."

Holyhead has always been tremendously proud of all its ships," he says, "but the St Columba provides us with a new opportunity to make a name for ourselves. The port has gone through some lean times but we now have a ship capable of achieving all we want to achieve and indeed ensure the prosperity of Holyhead for many years to come."

**YOUNGS CARAVANS LTD** who operate the Touring Caravan Holidays in Ireland with Sealink take this opportunity of wishing British Rail every success with "St. Columba".

Dun Laoghaire is the town which has found its way into the *Guinness Book of Records* while Holyhead has a remoteness that appealed to George Borrow who found the people poetical and Ruskin who admired the town. Patrick O'Leary takes a fresh look at these two points of departure

## A small foretaste of the Emerald Isle

When the Queen visits Holyhead on her jubilee tour in June she will find a town of large chapels, small villas and a steep winding main street. But a sleepy town might think he was already in Ireland rather than at the port of embarkation, for the square tower of Le Bon Sauveur convent dominates the skyline, while coins and banknotes from the republic are accepted in shops.

Many Irish families settled in the town in the mid-nineteenth century, when the development of harbour, roads and railway provided work. But the present situation is less prosperous. Mr R. A. Johnson, clerk to the town council, said the population, with surrounding Holy Island, was 12,500, and the unemployment rate was about 13 per cent. He said the biggest employers were British Rail and the docks, and the aluminium smelting works near the town. There were also a plastics extrusion plant and a knitting company.

"We would like to attract other shipping lines to the port," he said. "We think of Holyhead as the natural outlet for Birmingham." Oil exploration in the Celtic Sea might also bring work. Most of the property development is unobtrusive: a new police headquarters and public library built on difficult sloping sites, bungalows on the outskirts, and council houses on cleared land. "We just missed building tower block flats," Mr Johnson said. "The council has set up a housing improvement scheme. One house, of the kind that used to fetch £200 was sold last week for £6,950."

The principal grumble of residents is the poor road communication with the mainland—Holy Island is off Anglesey, which is itself separated from north-west Wales by the Menai Strait. One Londoner now working in Holyhead said: "You have to go to Chester for really competitive, cut-price shopping. The nearest Marks & Spencer is 44 miles away."

But this remoteness appealed to George Borrow, who found the people poetical, and described how he stood on "this holy headland and thought on the old times when it was the grand seat of Druidical superstition." Ruskin, too, admired what he called the mighty granite rock with its heathery crest, and its foot planted in the sea.

The mountain is only 720ft, but on a clear day offers views from Snowdonia in Wales to the Wicklow Hills in Ireland. In addition to the passenger terminal for ferries, whose buildings are being reconstructed to handle the new ship, British Rail operates a container terminal for ships to Dublin and Belfast, and a dry dock.

The harbour has been enlarged and deepened over the years, and there is an outer harbour of refuge. This was built to shelter sailing ships from contrary winds, but now provides a yachting centre with 200 moorings for small craft.

More substantial is the royal yacht Britannia, which will pick up the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to take them to Pembroke Dock. An earlier royal yacht was becalmed off Holyhead when George IV wanted to cross to Ireland in 1821. So he made the voyage in what was then the new fangled steam packet. This pleased him, his pleasure increased by learning while at Holyhead of the death of his wife, whom he detested.

The king wished to knight the steamer's captain, John Macgregor Skinner, but he declined on the grounds he was too poor to maintain such an honour in society. Captain Skinner stayed at sea into his seventies, when he was washed overboard. Grateful fellow citizens placed an obelisk on a hill overlooking the harbour, as a memorial to him, and a landmark for mariners.

## Graceful town the visitors miss

From the deck of the arriving ferry the town of Dun Laoghaire presents a gentle, low profile. Lawns slope up to the Royal Marine Hotel, which has one Victorian and one sharply modern wing. Beside it rises a three-storey car park and enclosed shopping centre.

These, with one modest block of seafarer flats, are the only apparent concessions to twentieth-century architecture. True, closer scrutiny shows that a handsome church in the square has replaced the burnt out St. Michael's, across the street from the shopping centre, but much of the original granite was reused in the new building, and the old tower remains.

Otherwise the squares and terraces, in spite of tall television aerials designed to pick up British programmes, prove the point made by L. A. G. Strong: "In Ireland the Georgian and Victorian eras lingered for a long time after they had been swept away elsewhere."

So it is a pity most people treat Dun Laoghaire merely as a gateway to Ireland. They hurry straight on to trains to Dublin, eight miles away, or drive into the Wicklow mountains, often in the dark, without seeing the town.

If they lingered they would notice a cast iron gazebo protecting a drinking fountain, which commemorates a visit by Queen Victoria. Not so delicate is an obelisk recording George IV's visit in 1821. For 100 years afterwards the port was called Kingstown, but when the Irish Republic was established the name returned to Dun Laoghaire, or Fort Leary.

King Leary beached his ships there in the fifth century and is said to have been converted by St Patrick. But in later centuries Dalkey, two miles to the south, Howth, on the opposite side of Dublin Bay, and the docks of Dublin itself achieved greater prominence as ports.

But a million-pound harbour, whose foundation stone was laid in 1817, and the opening of a railway to the Irish capital in the 1830s restored the importance of Dun Laoghaire for passenger traffic. It also became a favoured resort and later suburb for middle class Dubliners.

In 1930 the town spread its boundaries to take in Dalkey, Killiney and other villages. It now covers 65 sq miles, including attractive bays, and has some 56,000 inhabitants.

George Bernard Shaw's family lived at Dalkey, and it was while wandering

through the furze bushes nearby that he decided to give up saying bedtime prayers. Instead the young rebel painted a fresco of Mephistopheles on the white-washed wall of his bedroom. James Joyce became part of local history when he set the opening of *Ulysses* in a Martello tower near the seafarer. Stephen Dedalus "looked down on the water and on the mail-boat clearing the harbour mouth of Kingsown." But Dedalus found the tower uncomfortable, as Joyce did himself, because a fellow guest took to shooting at an imaginary black panther in the night. The tower is now a Joyce museum and this summer a symposium devoted to the author will be held there.

### Ferry expansion is an act of faith

Visitors are surprised by an old Dun Laoghaire custom, the use of the so-called Fort-foot, a narrow swimming pool, overlooked by the tower, by men for nude bathing. Women supporters of sex equality have been known to invade this sheltered spot, but not in the nude.

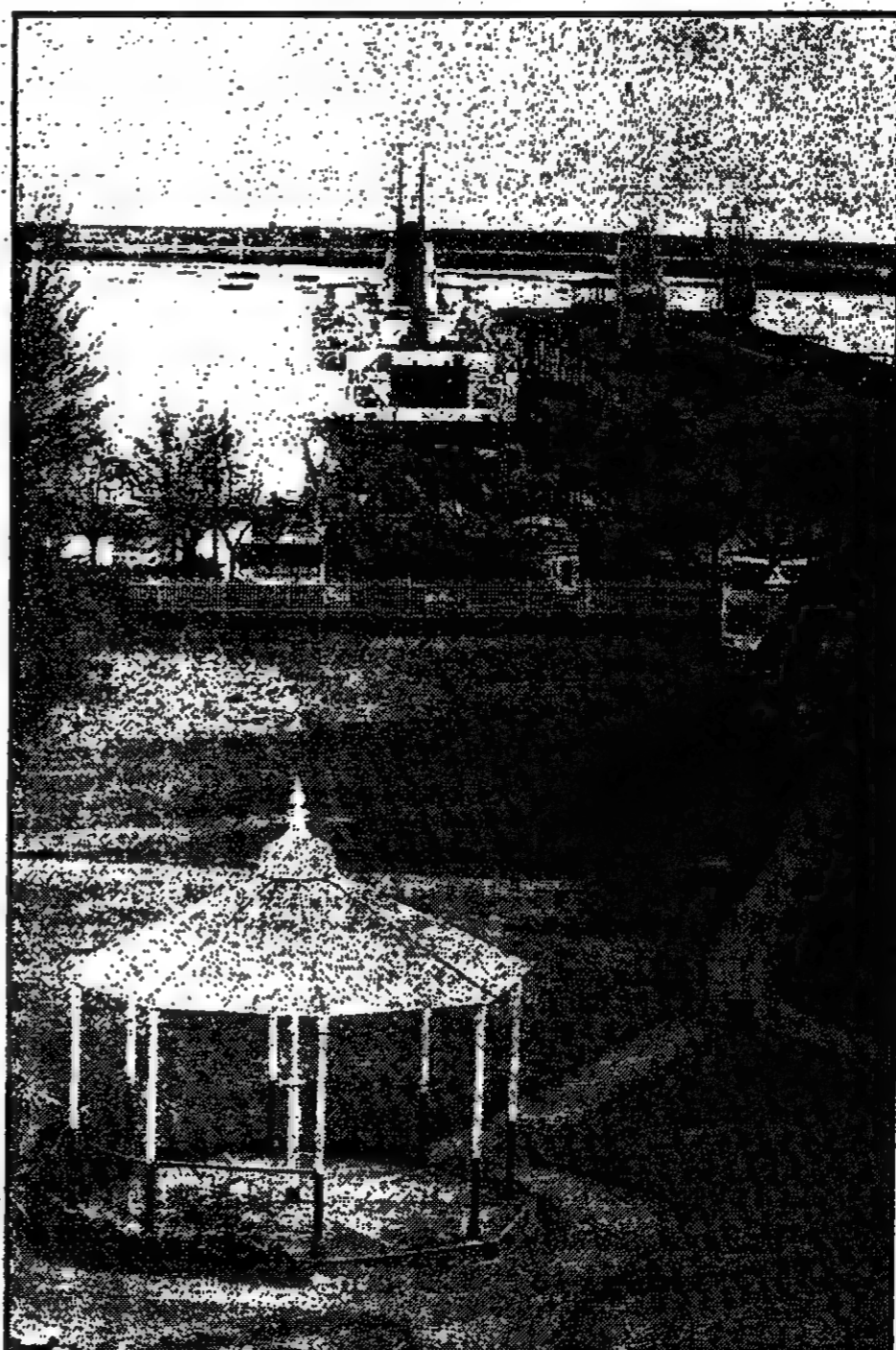
More graceful entertainment is provided by regattas held in Dublin Bay—Dun Laoghaire alone has three yacht clubs. Last year the town held its first summer festival, and another will take place in June.

But inevitably most tourists will continue to associate Dun Laoghaire with a glimpse of skyline after the crossing from Holyhead, a visual starter before passing on to the main, course elsewhere. To some extent the decision to increase the capacity of the ferry service is an act of faith.

Mr Liam Cosgrave, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, said early in April that the ferry campaign of the past eight years had cost the country £200m in lost tourism and investment. In his report for 1976 the Eastern Regional Tourism Organization pointed out that while the number of tourists from North America and the Continent had increased, the most important market, British visitors, had declined for the third year in succession.

"There are many reasons for this drop," the annual report said, "among the most obvious being the continued violence in Northern Ireland, the killing of the British ambassador, and the two-month long bank strike which coincided with the peak tourist period."

Dun Laoghaire's new shopping centre meant the end of a strike which had become a tourist attraction. Among three public houses removed to make way for it was one where a dispute involving barmen had lasted so many years that it found its way into the *Guinness Book of Records*.



The ferry berth from the lawn of the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire.

Two areas, at the opposite ends of Wales, with a lot in common. In North Wales, the Isle of Anglesey, On Wales' south-west tip, Pembrokeshire, Cardigan and district. Yet their sandy beaches, attractive resorts and rugged headlands are similar in scenery and spirit.



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## Port poised for revival

by Diana Patt

They are stilling for oil off the coast of Wales. If oil is found in sufficient quantities in the Irish Sea it could change the fortunes of the port of Holyhead.

For Holyhead has a large outer harbour with sheltered, deep water which would be suitable for supply vessels to service oil development. It has a fleet of rogs and land available for depots and storage areas.

Holyhead could do with some oil at the end of the rainbow. Its well-being is tightly linked with that of Ireland and, during the past 10 years, it has seen a substantial decline in trade as a result of Ireland's political troubles.

Since the day in 1850 when George Stephenson's railway bridge was built across the Menai Strait, coming for the designer the prime that he had "done more to raise the value of property of all kinds in Wales and to promote the social happiness of the people than had been achieved by all its poets, statesmen, lawyers and

warriors since the Roman invasion", the journey for rail travellers from Euston to Holyhead has altered little. The impressive crossing through the iron girders of the Britannia bridge is the last lap of the journey before embarkation.

And in the same way today, as then, the travellers are passing through, bringing important revenue to the port, but rarely stopping overnight in the town of Holyhead or staying to explore the island.

A spokesman for the Anglesey Tourist Association estimates that some 75 per cent of those who make the crossing are Irish or of Irish extraction and visit relatives. But the association would like to see Irish visitors encouraged to come for holidays to Anglesey itself. Last year the North Wales Tourism Council organised several shopping trips from Ireland to Llandudno, with coach trips round Anglesey, and this could be repeated this year.

Until the last decade, Holyhead was a busy port with a long tradition of carrying mail and passengers to Dun Laoghaire. It was also the main service for bringing Irish cattle into Wales and England, the cattle being fattened on the island before being sold. But during those 10 years

there have been dramatic changes in the pattern of operation of the port, not only because of civil disturbances in Ireland, but also because of a fire in the Britannia tubular bridge in 1970, which halted all shipping services from Holyhead for two years.

Alternative services for cars and passengers were operated from Heysham, but the fire dealt a body blow to the cattle ships. Much of the business went to competitors in those years and Ireland invested in the slaughter and preparation of carcasses for sale in Europe as well as the United Kingdom rather than in simply exporting cattle on the hoof. Daily sailings of the cattle boats started again, but with greatly diminished business and in November 1975, in spite of protest locally and from Ireland and objections from the Transport Users' Consultative Committee, the service was closed.

The port is owned and operated by British Rail, which is still the largest single employer on Anglesey, employing 1,200 men (an important factor in an area where 13 per cent are unemployed). And 1977, oil or no oil, could be a year of change for Holyhead. British Rail has invested heavily in the docks, spending more than £1m on a pas-

senger terminal with comfortable lounges, cafés, cloakrooms and improved customs facilities. MPs for Anglesey and Pembroke have pressed for duty free facilities at the port, but so far have encountered Treasury objections.

On May 2 British Rail's new multi-purpose service ferry, the St Columba, built in Denmark, will go into service. The new ferry will carry rail passengers, motorists and their cars and commercial road vehicles from Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire. However, there is strong local criticism of British Rail that it has not planned its investment as a package, including improvement to trains and stations as well as the docks.

Mr Peredur Lloyd, chief executive for Anglesey, says: "There has been no investment in rolling stock between Euston and Holyhead and the carriages are old-fashioned. British Rail says it is going to introduce air-conditioned trains, but not for 18 months."

Mr Peter Fenton, assistant shipping and port manager, says: "The growth of all services is better this year than for many years. Civil disturbances have put the British tourist off going to the Irish Republic, but passenger services to Dun Laoghaire are heavy despite this. This year we are

expecting 830,000 passengers on the new ferry, of which 309,000 will be motorists. We expect to carry 100,000 cars and some 10,000 roll-on, roll-off commercial vehicles."

Holyhead has a special jetty for the Anglesey Aluminium smelter and a modern purpose-built container terminal. There were to have been two container ships plying to Dublin and Belfast, but the level of traffic was insufficient to maintain both and British Rail has decided on one container ship plying alternately between the two ports.

Mr Fenton argues that Holyhead is necessarily small scale because of the geographical problems of loading containers, which have to be road hauled some of the way.

British Rail has high hopes for Holyhead this year and the remote Welsh port has not been forgotten by the European Community. The local authority has received an EEC grant of £500,000 towards a new industrial estate to which it is hoped to attract port-related industries. Work is already well advanced on the first stage of 40 acres at the Penrhos Industrial Estate and the project is expected to be completed by the beginning of 1978.

DUN LAOGHAIRE

HOLYHEAD

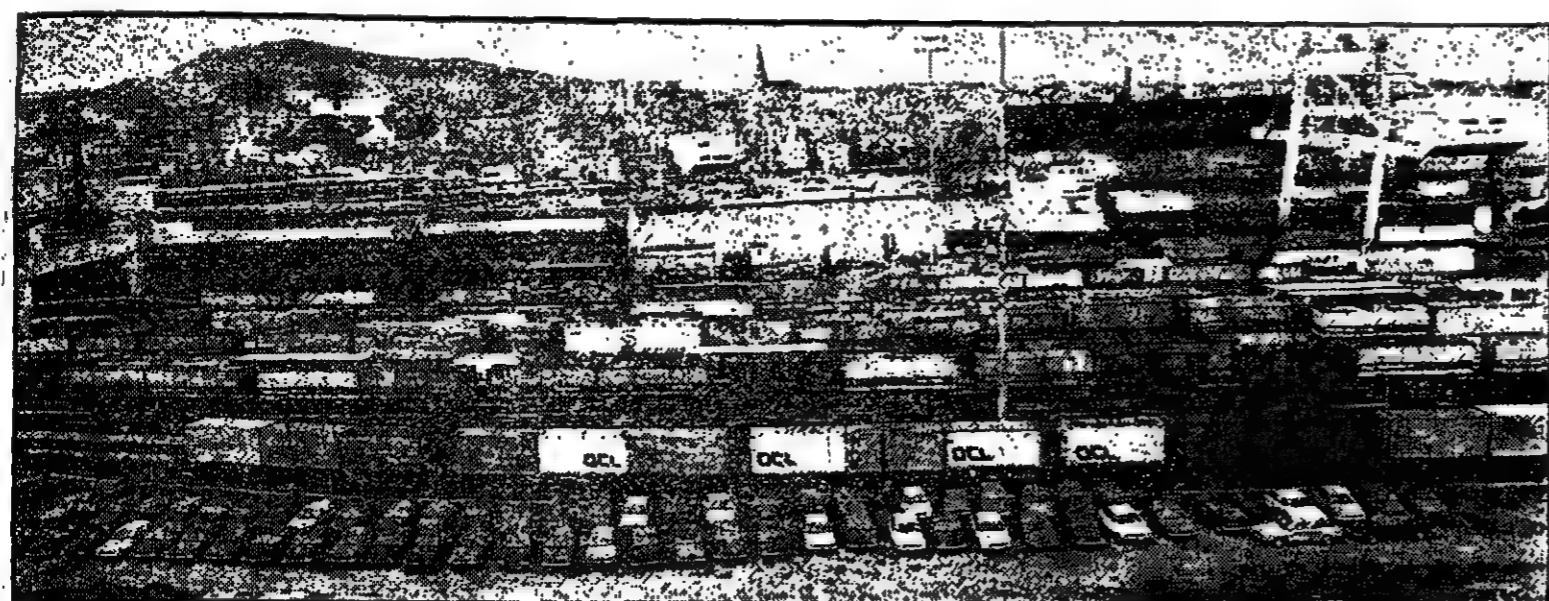
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Ireland  Tourism



Holyhead seen beyond the container depot, the Victorian railway station (left), and the dock.

## Island's improving story

by Patrick O'Leary

Romans marched through Anglesey, although archaeological differs, sometimes fiercely, over the authenticity of the so-called Roman walls surrounding Holyhead's parish church. In recent times, the town has been better known as a link between Britain and Ireland and its history in this role is bound up with the carrying of royal mail.

More than 400 years ago the court of Queen Elizabeth found it necessary to ensure swift transit of letters to and from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in Dublin. In summer, mounted couriers reached Holyhead from London in 24 hours, and there was little improvement on this time until the railways took over in the 1840s.

In the years between, stage coaches made it possible for passengers to accompany the mails, but the roads were bad and highwaymen active. Going through Snowdonia, a coach might have to be dismantled and carried on packhorses over a mountain pass. In the attempt to keep on schedule, drivers occasionally lost control and their coaches turned over. An inquiry in 1819 was told that many horses had died from over-exertion.

But in 1785 the Irish Mail coach entered service, taking a little over 27 hours from the Swan with Two Necks in the City of London to the Eagle and Child at Holyhead, averaging eight to 10 mph. As on other routes, horses were changed at convenient inns, and their hosts eventually became postmasters.

Meal breaks were short, and passengers slept on the move, if they could. Those rich enough often preferred to travel in their own coaches. Some took vehicles on board ship, an early form of roll-on, roll-off.

Whereas modern tourists cross to Ireland in between three and three and a half hours, those dependent on sailing ships were lucky to

make the same voyage in 27. They could also be stranded at Holyhead for days waiting for favourable winds.

Dean Swift once spent a week there. He found this especially irksome since, illogically, he regarded going back to his duties in Dublin, city of his birth, as exile from the bright society of London.

Such delays were good at least for tavern keepers. A seventeenth-century guide-book writer described the road to Holyhead, later to become the A5, as "one of the six premier post ways and one of the most frequented—and affording good entertainment for travellers", while another said Holyhead was "a scattered town consisting chiefly of houses of entertainment for persons bound for, or coming from, Ireland".

These hotels, entertaining or otherwise, have nearly all disappeared, although part of the Eagle and Child, built in 1770, survives as private premises. Even the nineteenth-century Railway Hotel, in imposing red brick, is shut and may be demolished. Its usefulness for overnight stays ended when postwar ferries provided comfortable berths.

### Act of Union brought Menai bridge

But to revert to Georgian days, little was done to make the journey easier and swifter for travellers until MPs began to share their hardships. The 1800 Act of Union meant Irish Members had to go to Westminster instead of attending their own Parliament in Dublin.

They were quickly on their feet, demanding improvements. By 1819 a select committee was busy finding out what everybody else had known for decades—that something must be done to improve links between the two capitals.

Thomas Telford, engineer and road builder, was called in, and by 1826 he had thrown his graceful suspension bridge across the Menai Strait. Until then, ferried across the narrow strait to reach Anglesey. A

strip of water also separated Holy Island from Anglesey, but the new road was carried across this on an embankment.

A few years earlier the sea crossing had been transformed by the introduction of steam packets. Partly to accommodate these examples of new technology, harbours on both sides of St George's Channel were improved. The mail station in Dublin was moved first to Howth Harbour, then in 1834 to a new dock at Dun Laoghaire, at that time called Kingstown. At Holyhead thousands of tons of rock were blasted from the side of the mountain near by to form a breakwater.

The next important development was the arrival of railways. Kingstown was linked to Dublin in the years needed to replace it, 1830s, but it was not until 1848 that Holyhead became

a rail terminus. Even then, George Stephenson's railway bridge across the Menai Strait was not finished until 1850. Before that passengers had to change at Bangor and cross by road.

It was partly this barrier that delayed completion of the railway to Holyhead, for proposals had been put forward to avoid crossing Anglesey by establishing a new ferry port where Llandudno now stands, or at Port-din-Llaen Bay, in Caernarfonshire. There had even been suggestions that the expense of a rail bridge could be avoided by using horses to draw the railway carriages across Telford's road bridge.

Stephenson's Britannia tubular bridge served for 120 years, then was destroyed by fire. During the two years, then was destroyed by fire. During the two years, then was destroyed by fire. During the two years, then was destroyed by fire.

viously, even two world wars had not stopped the mail going through to Dublin as it had in the days of Elizabeth I.

In 1917 a mailboat, the Leinster, was torpedoed on its way to Ireland. During the last war Holyhead was protected by the navy, including a Dutch unit which escaped in the fall of Europe. Ferry captains were instructed to sail a dog-leg course to avoid any waiting submarines.

One captain decided that when he was out of sight of naval headquarters he would sail straight over in the usual way. On his return he received a dressing-down and thought one of the crew had given him away. He did not know radar had been invented, and a secret station was operating on Holyhead Mountain.



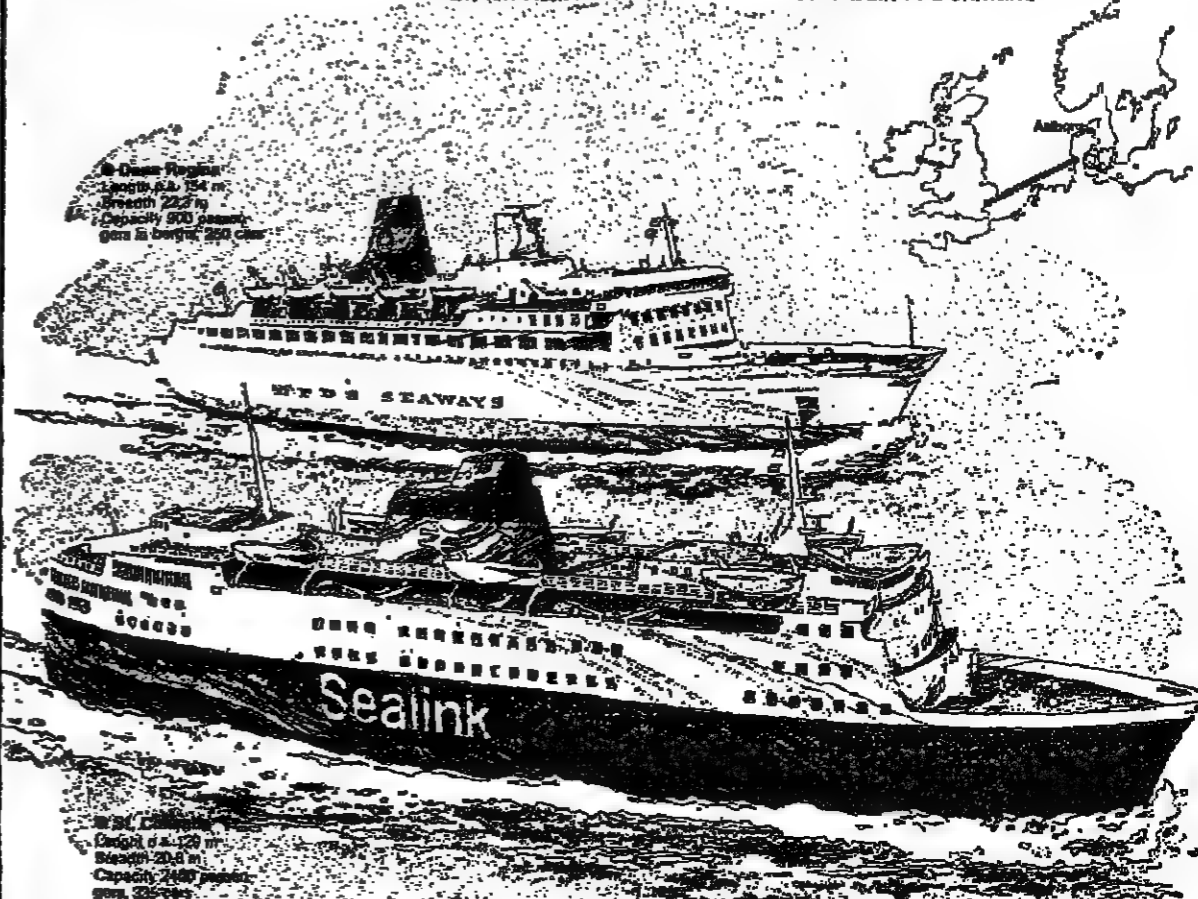
An archway through the so-called Roman walls of Holyhead parish church.

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## The Times Special Reports

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## CITROËN CX

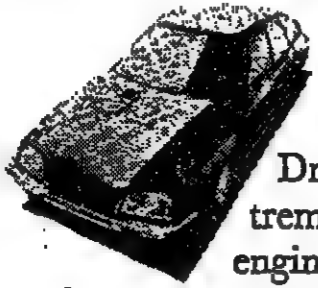
'Motor' magazine described it "one of the world's most beautiful production cars of all time," a verdict any motorist would be hard pushed to disagree with. All the more difficult then to believe that the elegant lines of the Citroën CX Pallas owe little to aesthetic consideration and much to the influence of practical requirements.



## LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING

Aerodynamically designed, the sleek shape of the CX offers minimal resistance to the wind. As you'd expect this helps improve performance and contributes in no small measure to the car's 112 mph top speed. Less expectedly, the wind cheating design also results in greater fuel economy with the CX Pallas returning a pleasantly astonishing 34 mpg at a constant 55 mph.

Clear panoramic vision is achieved with an almost uninterrupted band of windows which eliminate blind spots. The large concave rear window, apart from contributing handsomely to the appearance of the Pallas, was actually designed to deflect rain and afford a wider field of view. And don't mistake the single front windscreen wiper for a piece of design indulgence; it sweeps a broader area than the conventional pair.



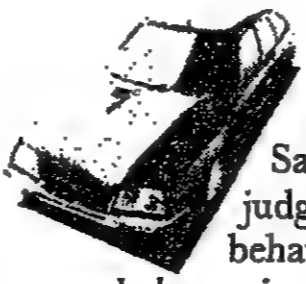
## LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING

Driving comfort is rated extremely important by Citroën engineers and the detailing on the CX bears testimony to this. Gear lever aside, essential controls are arranged in two groups so that all can be operated without the driver's hands having to leave the steering wheel. Vari-Power steering prevents the wheels from being deflected by road surface

irregularities and power-returns to a straight line position immediately the steering wheel is released.

Ergonomically designed seats give back and leg support and the front seats are fully adjustable. Seats, together with suspension, help eliminate long distance driving fatigue. Citroën's famed self-levelling hydropneumatic suspension has won such universal acclaim that Citroën aficionados are apt to assume the general motoring public is thoroughly familiar with it. But it bears repeating that there is no more comfortable suspension system on any car anywhere in the world.

C-matic transmission is an optional extra on the CX Pallas. It eliminates the clutch pedal, transmission being achieved by use of a torque converter fluid coupling with automatic operation.



## LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING

Safety in relation to cars must be judged on two levels. How the car behaves in an accident and how the car behaves in helping you avoid accidents. On both counts the Citroën CX stands out as one of the safest cars in the world.

Collapsible zones in the CX body shell are designed to absorb impact in a collision. The profiles of the door interiors follow the shape of the human body. There are no sharp or

hard projections inside the car and foam padding has been used extensively to cushion any unexpected blows.

But far better to avoid an accident than survive one. The steering, handling and road-holding of the Citroën CX are superb. An example to give you some idea of what it's like: imagine you have a blowout on the motorway—worse still, imagine a wheel comes adrift. Citroën's self-levelling hydropneumatic suspension holds up the car so it can continue travelling in a straight line on three wheels.



## LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING

Features still offered as options on many luxury cars are standard on the CX Pallas: fitted speakers and aerial, reclining front seats with headrests and electrically operated front window winders. In addition, a special tectyl underbody protection is applied to all Citroën CX models sold in Britain.

Having come this far to demonstrate that the Citroën CX is functional in both concept and design, it must also be admitted that the whole appearance of the car is decidedly futuristic. But even this has a practical objective. When a car is so obviously built to be around for many years to come it would have been impractical to say the least, not to have designed it with an eye fixed firmly on the future.



# LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING

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# The professor and a scoundrel called Sir Edmund

A story which includes the Regius Professor of Modern History in the University of Oxford innocently smuggling through the British customs two large typescript volumes of the most appalling obscenity, entrusted to his keeping in mysterious circumstances on Basel airport, is one which, whatever else it may prove to contain, can hardly fail to be interesting. I have a very high regard for Professor Trevor-Roper, but I cannot entirely suppress my disappointment at the lack of vigilance displayed by the customs on this occasion, for the thought of the incredulity, shame and horror with which the professor would have been overcome, on being asked what was in the parcel and obligingly opening it so that custodian and traveller might examine it together, is too delightful to be consigned to the night-habits of history without real regret.

But if the story implied by these circumstances must be interesting, much the same, if not more, has to be said of the two volumes which the professor, heedless of the provisions of Section 42 of the Customs Consolidation Act 1876 and Section 320 of the Customs and Excise Act 1952, brought, all unknown, into the country, and unpacked beneath the very windows of Bodley's Library; if you doubt me, consider that the books contained an assertion (accompanied by the most exhaustive and elaborate details) that their author had had carnal relations with, among many dozens of others, the Dowager Empress of China, Paul Verlaine and Lord Rosebery.

The author was Sir Edmund Backhouse; Professor Trevor-Roper's book about him, *A Hidden Life* (published by Macmillan), has been widely and enthusiastically reviewed, but I see no reason why that should inhibit me from expressing my own pleasure in a book which is not merely entertaining but as scholarly and elegant as anything the professor has done. As it happens, *A Hidden Life* is an example of a kind of book which I particularly enjoy, no doubt for deeply buried psychological reasons; it tells a story that is complete, or as nearly so as human ingenuity can make it. Books with titles like "Power: A Study" or "The Influence of the Nineteenth Century on the Nineteenth" or "Greece and Rome" may be fascinating in their way, but they are not fascinating in this way; it is eternally impossible to say the last word on such subjects, to answer every question they raise. But a few books, generally studies of an episode or an individual, can draw a circle round their subject and leave the reader satisfied that nothing of value or interest about it remains out.

side. The locus classicus in modern times is *The Quest for Corvo* (Professor Trevor-Roper makes clear that he had that book much in mind in writing his own, which does indeed have a large number of affinities with it), but in a different way Professor Quentin Bell's magnificent biography of Virginia Woolf can equally serve as a model: it is not just that, having read it, I never want to read another word on that same woman (as a matter of fact I never wanted to read any word on her, and was virtually tricked into reading the book while staying in the house of friends who put it beside my bed), but that I find it impossible to imagine anything more of value or interest being said on the subject. And the best of such books that I have read recently is David Buchanan's *The Treasure of Auchinleck*, the extraordinary story of the discovery and collection of the papers of James Boswell.

Ruthless.  
unscrupulous  
and more  
than half mad

So it is with Edmund Backhouse and the Regius Professor's entirely successful Quest for him. And it is not just my hankering after completeness that the book satisfies; it must surely be welcome to anyone with enough romanticism to appreciate the story of a man who was a flamboyant and uproarious scoundrel, a fantasist and liar on a colossal scale, a thief, forger, fraud and pornographer, but who was in addition to all this an extraordinarily gifted linguist, a genuine scholar, in some ways near to genius, and above all a man for whom the reader cannot help conceiving an enormous sympathy and affection. Every time he is in yet another scrape from which extrication seems impossible, we stand at the side of the track as he staggers by, cheering him on and hoping that, against the odds, he will manage to shake off the pursuers. Fear nothing: he always does.

But *A Hidden Life* has an extra justification, and that the most important of all. Irrespective of the subject, it is an excellent book. Professor Trevor-Roper not only marshals and presents a great deal of very complicated information in an admirably clear and well-ordered manner, he also gives us a memorable picture of China from the end of the nineteenth century to the Second World War, an astonishing portrait of G. E. ("Chinese") Morrison, for many years the Peking correspondent of this newspaper, who became a legend in his own lifetime and has remained one since (and who here comes out to be ruthless, unscrupulous and rather more than half mad), and a

fine and valuable study of a small but not unimportant corner of modern history. (Well, he is Regius Professor of it.)

Backhouse led the life of a sinologist (he finally "went native" altogether), collector, translator, scholar and (of the Bodleian) immensely munificent benefactor: he also served as the agent of a shipping company and of the British Government. Unfortunately, especially for his clients, he lived simultaneously in a world of fantasy, inventing adventures, exploits and achievements on an enormous scale, then finding himself obliged to invent more and more details to keep the tower of lies from toppling over. Such men are hardly rare: what singled out Backhouse was the variety, eminence and ability of those whom he utterly deceived. Indeed, with the exception of John Morrison (and that is by no means certain) and Professor Trevor-Roper, who after all has the benefit of the evidence, he seems to have deceived everybody with whom he came into contact. His most hilarious escapade took place during the First World War, when he was entrusted by the British Government with the delicate task of acquiring from the Chinese, and shipping, a huge quantity of arms and ammunition, desperately needed in Europe: at various stages, the story involved Lloyd George, Kitchener and the King. From Peking, Backhouse sent a continuous account of the appalling difficulties he was experiencing in collecting and conveying the arms, under the very noses of the Chinese authorities (who had to be kept "officially out of the bush"), of how he managed, again and again, to triumph over some new obstacle, of how the ships in which the weapons were to be transported had been diverted, he was working night and day to square the officials with power to release them. On and on it went, with the Government getting more and more impatient, and Backhouse's excuses and more elaborate explanations of the delays. They had to be elaborate by that time, for the simple truth was that there were no such arms and never had been; the whole enterprise existed only in his amazingly fertile brain.

That episode was typical of Backhouse's whole life, and Professor Trevor-Roper's handling of it is typical of his whole book: the reader is throughout amused, amazed and enthralled, and increasingly grateful to the Swiss scientist who so nearly got the Regius Professor into such embarrassing trouble at Heathrow. But let the professor have the last word:

There was my leave Sir Edmund Backhouse: the spendthrift aesthete of the 1890s who became the sinologist and recluse of the next century, the spiritual fascist of the second World War. The brilliant linguist who used his gifts to dabble in successive patois: the enchanter whose spells softened the hard heads of businessmen and diplomats; the collector whose generosity enriched his old university and who implicitly abandoned his own papers to meaningless destruction; the secret war-time agent who led his own government on a ludicrous wild-goose chase; the scholar who created a masterpiece of historical writing and produced a masterpiece of forgery; the ghost-writer who created a whole world of ghosts; the mystery man, the calligrapher, the pornographer. However, he may be judged, he was in his self-expression, an original.

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Before Dr Magnus Pyke opened an exhibition of United States electronics at the US Trade Center in London yesterday, there was concern about whether he had been afforded enough space. But the arm-waving star of radio, television and science was forced to hold his notes in his right hand, leaving only his left free for gesticulation.

For a scientist, he is oddly ill-at-ease with modern technology. The benefits of the two microphones placed in front of him were largely ignored, and he was constantly whirling his head from side to side as he spoke.

All the same, he thoroughly approves of scientific advance. "We are in a new era," he cried excitedly. "We are like the Bronze Age people going into the Iron Age."

Warning to his theme, he declared: "We ain't seen nothing yet. This is the beginning of a revolution." Modern electronics would send radio, postal deliveries obsolete, and electricity would soon be replaced by "protons of light moving along these lovely, lovely little glass fibres".

Then he made a short tour of the exhibition, which seemed chiefly to consist of tiny printed circuits, some so small that they had to be examined by microscopes. Pyke enjoyed doing that, but when I peered through the lenses I found the result more baffling than when I examined the stuff with the naked eye.

One welding machine had steam rising from it and looked like a laundry. There was a wiring analyser system shaped like a space-age toaster rack. One manufacturer advertised "the perfect probe that does not damage the slice" and even Pyke was baffled by the "iso-

"Well, society may be in its infancy," said Egremont, slightly smiling. "I can see you like our Queen reigns over the greatest nation that ever existed."

"Which nation?" asked the younger stranger. "For she reigns over two."

The stranger paused; Egremont was silent; but looked inquiringly.

"Yes," resumed the younger stranger after a moment's interval. "Two nations: between whom there is no intercourse and no sympathy; who are as ignorant of each other's habits, thoughts, and feelings, as if they were dwellers in different zones, or inhabitants of different planets; who are formed by a different breeding, are fed by a different food, are ordered by different manners, and are not governed by the same laws."

"You speak of," said Egremont, hesitatingly, "THE RICH AND THE POOR?"

This extract from Disraeli's novel *Sybil* written more than 100 years ago illustrates vividly Disraeli's appreciation of the dangers of two nations, one rich and one poor, and indeed it was the creation of the one nation theme that was his unique contribution to the Tory tradition. Nearly a century later, in spite of the benefits of technology, we still have "two nations" and it should still be

the main purpose of the Tory Party to create one. We have two nations where conflict is often more apparent than partnership. In our cities we are fast developing two nations, the inner city and the outer city, with the inner city suffering from increasing unemployment, increasing crime and deteriorating housing.

In those areas where there are substantial immigrant populations we have two nations—one black and one white.

In housing we have two nations—the council house tenant and the owner occupier—where in town after town there is a basic social division between the council house estates and the owner occupied estates.

In *The Ascent of Britain* I have endeavoured to suggest policies that should be pursued by the Conservative Party so that over the coming decade much could be done to create one nation in those areas of our society where divisiveness prevails.

There is a tendency to describe the existing policies as being to the left of the Conservative Party. In reality it is this Tory tradition that is the real defender of individual freedom and of the preservation of the free enterprise system. It is the Tory tradition of evolving policies free of dogma but directly applicable to modern conditions. The Conservative task is not

just to defend capitalism but to enhance it. Radical reforms are needed to secure a socially responsible capitalism; under such a system those inequalities which do exist must be seen to contribute to the public welfare and therefore not to be unreasonable.

Perhaps one of the biggest changes must come in endeavouring to obtain a genuine redistribution of capital. We need to return to Iain Macleod's ideal of a capital-owning democracy. The socialist concept of the redistribution of wealth is to take away from the wealthy and thereafter to have that wealth administered by the politician and the bureaucrat supposedly on behalf of the public at large. The Conservative approach should be to try to redistribute wealth so that more individual people have a stake in society. This means looking objectively at our existing taxation system and asking whether it is fair and in accordance with the various contributions that are made to our industrial success.

Nineteenth century capitalism consisted largely of industrial concerns in which the proprietor and the manager were one, so that the rewards given to successful proprietors were also rewards to the managers. This is no longer the position, for in many industries the proprietor and the manager are not synonymous. Our major industrial concerns have boards of directors who rarely have more than a small stake, if

any, in the company they manage. Our taxation system should be changed so that the rewards of successful management are at least equal to the rewards of successful proprietorship.

We must also examine the nature of the wealth currently controlled by politicians and bureaucrats to see how much of it can be transferred to individuals. In the field of public housing a vast bureaucracy supervises one country, the people of this country, who have become permanent tenants. The nationalized industries were created because of the primal desire of socialists to have workers controlling industry instead of a few privileged owners. They have generated, as we can now see, less rather than more of a feeling of participation. These are spheres in which there can be a worthwhile and exciting redistribution of wealth from the politician and the bureaucrat to the individual.

As a nation we are heavily in debt, we are suffering from inefficiencies in management and from overmanaging and restrictive practices, and we have failed to dominate any of the major world markets. We are now confronted with perhaps our last opportunity for revival.

We must follow a new international strategy based upon the realities of a fast-transforming world. We must create a new industrial society where technology benefits man and

does not dominate him; where partnership replaces strife. We must create a stronger alliance with our Western allies to protect our freedom and our heritage. From an economic strength we must seek a new quality of urban life that brings man enjoyment in place of anguish and anxiety.

I believe that the proposals I have made for the future of industrial relations, for the transfer of the council house estates of Britain to the tenants, and for the improvement of urban life as policies that will be really meaningful to that great majority of our people who live in squalor and semi-detached houses and who collectively by their efforts see that a nation fails or succeeds.

Through two centuries the Tory Party has inherited a remarkable tradition, a tradition expressed and valued by Edmund Burke, Benjamin Disraeli, Joseph Chamberlain and Harold Macmillan in a tradition that desperately strives for the creation of one nation, that rejects dangerous extremes; it is a tradition that Britain needs to turn today more urgently than at any time in our history.

Peter Walker

The author's book *The Ascent of Britain* will be published by Sidgwick & Jackson (6.50) tomorrow and will be reviewed by Hugh Stephenson.

## Will Turkey's strategic importance persuade Congress to lift the arms embargo?

The American arms embargo imposed on Turkey in the wake of the Cyprus invasion more than three years ago, has impaired the country's military effectiveness to such a degree that the Turks are determined to revise their defence policies, whatever the results of next June's general election.

Although Turkish leaders refuse to admit it, they realize that today there is no practical alternative to their country's military dependence on the United States. They find this so intolerable that they threaten to make their defence commitment to the West proportional to the military aid received.

How severely the Turkish military machine was hurt by the American arms embargo was revealed by General Alexander Haig, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, before the United States Senate Armed Services Committee on March 1. He said that the Turkish Air Force is today operating at an efficiency of less than 50 per cent of its former capability.

A knowledgeable American source said: "At one point the embargo was almost obscene. They could not fly a plane because they could not get a \$3-cartridge for the seat-jockey. They are now still receiving one-half of what they need."

Turkey has been receiving about \$125m worth of credits a year for military purposes in the United States, but she is not allowed to buy United States arms or spares, even on a straight cash basis, because of the embargo. In any case the country's foreign exchange position is so weak to allow it to do that or look for alternative sources of supply. As a result "scrounging" has widely practised in the armed forces.

It was in order to remedy this situation that the United States-Turkish Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) was concluded in Washington just over 13 months ago. But its ratification, which would have terminated the embargo, was delayed by presidential elections and held

up by congressional opposition. However, as one highly-placed official in Ankara put it: "From the moment (President) Carter took over, the clock started ticking away."

The Turkish leaders regard the changeover in the Washington administration with profound mistrust. They were annoyed by President Carter's decision to send the Clifford mission on a fact-finding tour to help him reassess United States policy in this region. They now know that as a result of the Clifford report, President Carter, though he is willing to support the total lifting of the embargo, will not ask Congress to ratify the DCA until Turkey, as promised by Mr Clifford, makes substantial steps towards a Cyprus settlement, after the Turkish election.

Until then the President proposes to increase United States military aid credits to Turkey to about \$225m, which is almost the annual sum of aid placed under the DCA. In this way Turkey would not appear to be taking action on Cyprus under pressure, while the move could also bolster Premier Demirel's electoral chances. It is still uncertain how Congress will react to this compromise.

The link between the ratification of the DCA and Cyprus irritates the Turkish leaders. Mr Ihsan Sabri Caglayanli, the Turkish Foreign Minister, told me: "It would be the wrong approach for Congress to justify the bilateral relations of the two countries in the context of the development of the Cyprus situation. In fact, this approach has already proved to be counter-productive."

Turkish officials argue that the embargo, more than anything else, contributed to the Cyprus deadlock, because Turkey is far too proud to be seen yielding under pressure. The Greeks insist that Turkey was compelled to make the present overtures in Cyprus under pressure from the embargo and in the hope of inducing the United States to rescind it.

Western diplomats in Ankara say there is no doubt that the



Mr Ihsan Sabri Caglayanli: a wrong approach.

Turkish military, who have to live with the consequences if the arms embargo, have already made it clear to the politicians that they would like to see Turkey's military commitment in Cyprus reduced. More than that, the Turkish leadership can now count on the support of the main opposition party in the case of the problem of Cyprus is solved along the lines now under discussion.

A crucial question is whether the United States will want to use its influence also to induce a settlement of Greek-Turkish disputes in the Aegean that are potentially more explosive than Cyprus. One American source said: "Nato cohesion comes first. Therefore all the problems are taken together. It is ridiculous to allow lesser issues to control the major line of their aid. It would involve a clear that the Aegean will take long to resolve whereas the decision on the arms embargo will become more urgent in view of early elections in Turkey."

In the opinion of Western observers the DCA has not been approved by Congress. The American bases in Turkey will

be shut and the personnel dismissed. They point out that even if the Americans have developed alternative sources of intelligence, they can hardly be effective substitutes to bases sitting practically on the doorstep of the Soviet Union."

But the Turkish government leaders maintain that, even if the DCA is approved, relations with the United States will never be the same again. They indicate that Turkey's defence relations will be revised so that the country's contribution to Nato should be in proportion to her domestic financial capabilities and the level of assistance received from the West.

The revision would also involve the rapid development of a domestic arms industry to reduce dependence on foreign sources of supply. Above all, they add, it would involve a drastic improvement of relations with the countries on Turkey's periphery to establish fronts of peace and diminish the risks of conflict. Mr Caglayanli's recent visit to Moscow was the plan to sign a "friendship document" between the two countries, are pointers in that direction.

Most Nato observers in Ankara agree that in the long term, Turkey, a country with six-billion-dollar all-America military infrastructure, has a practical alternative today to its link with the United States, even if the DCA is rejected. These observers, however, differ on the nature of Turkey's short-term reactions to a rejection.

"Turkey's western orientation is not emotional," one Western diplomat told me. "It springs from the practical awareness of where the country's real interest lies. No serious politician here believes in the possibility of substituting Russia for the United States or taking Soviet arms."

Another qualified Western observer suggested that Turkey might, in a short-term outburst for the rejection of the DCA, leave the West, go neutral, turn to the Arabs, or even court Moscow. "They can do whatever they like," he said, "but to spite the face, especially in a pro-election period. The feeling would be one of being let down by the West which is pro-Greek, so they might as well turn back to Islam or anyone else."

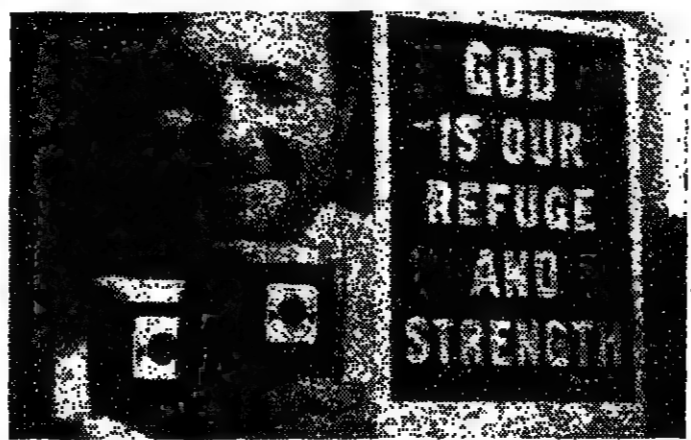
This would hurt the West, this source explained, because "Turkey has the biggest army in Nato after the Americans, sitting right on the Soviet border and controlling a vital geographical position. The United States contributes the bases in this area and the might of the Soviet Union. Turkey creates an entity that is a major element in the world strategic balance. And there is no way to avoid taking this into account."

The Turkish leaders appreciate this line of thought which tallies with their own assessment of Turkey's value to the West. Their main concern now is to convince Washington's congressional sceptics whose price for acknowledging this role for Turkey is her substantial contribution to the elimination of the causes of friction that undermine Nato unity in this region.

Mazio Modiano

## The Times Diary

Dr Pyke and the brave new era



This happy pair of signs was photographed in Co Cork, Eire, by Mrs W. Wood of South Windsor, Ontario.

lared pad" and the "haywire bread board". Having had to make two attempts, the previous evening to repair a simple fuse, I fear I may not be able to handle the brave new electronic era at all.

### Green blues

My reservations about complex technology were confirmed when the first public performance in London of the most advanced music yet played by pot plants proved a disappointment at the Royal College of Art on Monday night. There were problems still to be weeded out of the computer, which was supposed to analyse

changes in the electrical currents between the plants' cells and use them to generate rhythms and harmonies through a synthesiser. As a result the audience heard only some rather amateurish bongobongos and crackling, which made it sound as if the orchestra were playing plants were still only tuning up.

John Lifton, who devised what he calls Green Music, explained that he has completely computerized the system since he first showed it at the Whitechapel Art Gallery two years ago. "It should enable the plants' perception of their environment to produce more structured, rhythmic and melodic music," he said, "when it is working."

Another change is that he now allows no prima donnas among the aspidochelons. Whereas previously the electrodes in one plant's stem had control of one instrumental part of the music, it is now entirely a group effort, with the electrical signals from all the plants mixed together.

Plants are sensitive musicians. They give much livelier performances, for instance, where there is an audience about them, but sudden shocks—like watering or having their leaves stroked in mid-concerto—silence them completely.

Lifton, who built the improved sound system for the plant band so that they could appear in a feature film made in Hollywood, is next taking the equipment to a musical festival in Zagreb. The London glomias and philodendrons will not get a chance to perfect their arpeggios there, though. Yugoslavs are to be invited to bring in their own house plants to play their favourite pieces.

### Good looking

Political caricature is not what it was. When 20 MPs were presented with original cartoons of themselves in a cordial ceremony at the Speaker's House yesterday all but one professed unalloyed pleasure in what they saw. The exception was Angus Maude. Conservative MP for Stratford-on-Avon, whose picture made him look like a dishevelled frog.

Maude, not managing even then to look quite as badtempered as the portrait represented him, insisted he was not complaining. But his was the only unkind caricature so far to appear on the front of *The House Magazine*, the non-party journal for whose cover the sketches were originally commissioned.

### Indefinable

When the publishers of the *Oxford English Dictionary* responded to pressure and modified their definition of the opprobrious meaning of "Jew", I fear they started something. Now the other side, represented by the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding, have succeeded in having changes made to the definitions of "Palestinian" and "Jerusalem" in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*.

From the definition of the first, the publishers will henceforth omit "(person) seeking to displace Israelis from Palestine". And from the second, they have obliterated the reference to Jerusalem being in Israel.

"Our object always is to give a totally unbiased definition," explained a spokeswoman from Oxford University Press. "Not everyone will agree that they have attained their object in this case. Where will it all end?"

### Roll up

Even the Swiss are cashing in on the Silver Jubilee. In an act of some bravery, the Swiss Centre in Leicester Square is to serve British food for the first time, as a contribution to the celebrations. To launch the event the British Tourist Authority held a junket in the centre yesterday, and served English and Swiss wines. But the Swiss are not letting the natives have it all their way. Concurrently with the

Jubilee promotion, with its attendant replica of the crown jewels and models of the holiday regions of Britain, the Swiss are pushing the virtues of their own national dish, the Swiss roll. They regard this as much maligned. In this country, mind-bogglingly, the basic sponge and jam variety is only for beginners. This week's speciality rolls are fresh strawberry (chanilly) and moccasin (irsch).

Regrettably, Marc's cartoons will no longer be appearing in the *Times*. He objects to the degree of editorial control which has been exercised over his work.

### Moving on

Andrew Shonfield, who since 1971 has been director of the Royal Institute for International Affairs at Chatham House, moves to Italy at the beginning of next year to become a professor of economics at the recently-founded European University Institute in Florence.

A former foreign editor of the *Financial Times* and economics editor of *The Observer*, Shonfield went to the Royal Institute originally in 1961 as director of studies, and came back as director after a break as chairman of the Social Science Research Council from 1969-71. He has also owned a farmhouse between Florence and Siena for some years, which he says is one of the few astute economic moves he has ever made.

The public relations officer for the national conference of the United Kingdom Federation of Business and Professional Women is Mrs Ida Down.

PHS

## Hattie Jacques is worried about Joe

He's 78, and lives, sleeps and cooks in one horribly damp room. He says life's harder than during his service in the 1914 war, because then there were pals to talk to. Now he's crippled and "nearly round the bend with loneliness, not a ruddy soul to talk to, and no chance to get out."

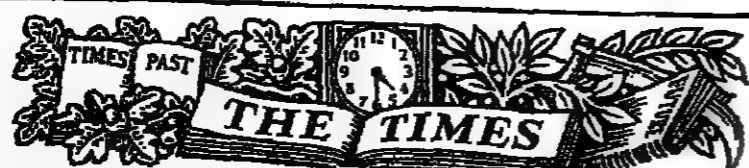
I know what needs doing: a Day Centre in Joe's district and a minibus to pick him up. For it can't be right for him to live that lonely life, can it?

There are lots of other Joes, and Janes, with this kind of constant heartache in old age. Help the Aged is doing all it can—but lack of money holds up schemes and their volunteers from helping many who need just this kind of practical friendship, both at home and abroad.

Join me and give a hand to someone who needs it. £5 can bring practical help to another lonely person. £30 helps provide a Geriatric Day Hospital. £150 perpetuates the memory of someone dear to you, by inscribing their name on the Dedication Plaque of a Day Centre. £100 names a hospital bed in Africa or Asia.

Your donation is desperately needed to help old people. So please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T3, FREEPOST 30, LONDON W1E 7JZ. (No stamp needed).

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## DR COGGAN'S VISIT TO ROME

Canterbury, Rome, Constantinople, Geneva. Today Dr Coggan sets out to tread the historic quadrilateral of European Christendom. The itinerary is evidence that there is nothing lopsided or out of balance about the Archbishop's management of inter-church relations. Less need this time for the Rev Ian Paisley's men to be out with their placards. All the same, it is the Archbishop's meeting with the Pope which has most significance in the context of ecumenism; partly because the propinquity and interaction of Rome and Canterbury have always been greater than that between Canterbury and Constantinople; partly because in Geneva Dr Coggan will not be consorting with the spiritual descendants of Calvin but with the World Council of Churches and its general secretary, Dr Potter, which is not quite the same thing; and partly because formal machinery exists to expedite a rapprochement between the Anglican and Roman Catholic communions, and the machinery has been working rather smoothly.

One of the fruits of Archbishop Ramsey's visit to the Vatican in 1966 was the establishment of an Anglican and Roman Catholic theological commission charged with the examination of doctrine in dispute between the two churches. With the publication of agreed statements on the Eucharist, on the ordained ministry, and, earlier this year,

on authority in the church including the position of the papacy, the commission has concluded the business that it initially set itself to do. The three statements of the commission embody agreement of surprisingly wide scope. Not all difficulties have been resolved, especially concerning papal claims, but considering the length of time and the passion with which these fundamental questions have been disputed between the Roman and Anglican churches the ability of the theological commission to come to a common view is almost uncanny. The commission has supplied an important part of the momentum towards unity. If that momentum is to be maintained the Pope and the Archbishop will need to agree some further initiative. But an initiative of what kind?

There appears to be almost no limit to the extent to which ecumenically minded theologians of different denominations are capable of publishing agreement. Theology in the hands of contemporary practitioners is a discipline of limitless flexibility and resource. With the aid of radical reformulation, neologisms and context creation, old sticking points can be erased and new insights introduced to bridge familiar chasms. It is wonderful to behold, but apt to leave non-practitioners stranded or winded, with a dull feeling that their landscape has become

unrecognizable. A pause in officially sponsored theological concurrence would be no bad thing while the ground already traversed is consolidated at a more work a day level of churchmanship.

For it is still the case that while there is convergence where there was formerly controversy, new divergences may open up to re-create disunity. One such is the priesting of women. Some branches of the Anglican communion have approved the practice. The Church of England itself, though divided and still cautious, is largely agreed that there are no theological objections sufficient to rule out the practice. Meanwhile the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, with a disregard for what have come to be considered the ecumenical courtesies of the age, issues an uncompromising reaffirmation of Rome's disqualification of women priests, asserting precisely the kind of fundamental theological objections which the Anglican communion no longer discerns. (And in Istanbul the Archbishop may expect to find even less sympathy for the Anglican position.) So the cause of unity receives its checks as well as its impulses. As regards Canterbury and Rome, the immediate future must still be thought of as within the bounds of separation sweetened by charity, courtesy and collaboration, rather than as yet reaching to intercommunion, or, more remotely, to corporate reunion.

## THE SECOND TIME OF ASKING

Nothing which Mr Silkin may say about being satisfied with the deal reached in Luxembourg in the early hours of yesterday can alter the fact that it is substantially the same as the one which he turned down a month ago. When Mr Silkin prevented the EEC from meeting its April 1 deadline for agreeing on a new round of prices for this year, he did so because he wanted a butter subsidy of 20p and the other members of the Community were prepared to offer 8p. In the event he has had to settle for 8p, an insignificant improvement on what he had earlier rejected. The devaluation in the green pound is nearer the figure which the Commission had proposed than it is to the British position of no change. And at the end of negotiations, Britain, which had claimed to be fighting for no increase in prices will actually experience a bigger increase than other Community countries.

Even this, however, understates the extent to which Britain has had to abandon the position with which we began this year's farm price review. In January, it was the United Kingdom's declared intention to use the annual bargaining session on prices to get specific action to bring about a structural reform of the Community's Common

Agricultural Policy. That such a reform is needed cannot be in doubt. Many foods which are covered by institutional prices in the Community are now building up surpluses. The most famous is the "butter mountain", but there are surpluses for beef, for wine and for olive oil, all of which are increasingly costly and require firm action by Community Ministers either to bring down production or to increase consumption.

Nothing in the current agreement will do anything to achieve that. In the debate about getting an extra halfpenny on the butter subsidy, Mr Silkin has abandoned any pretence to be seeking broader reform in the Community as a whole. Gone is the pretence that Britain can veto any increase at all in farm prices unless there is structural reform; that threat cannot be made again. Gone is the belief even that such a structural reform really matters to the British government. Instead, it seems to want to milk the system for as large a subsidy as it can, hoping to play the same game which it suspects other Community members of playing.

The increase in guarantees which has emerged for institutional prices is not, in itself, a particularly large one at around 3 per cent. If we could hold

down the rate of inflation for everything to 3 per cent, we should be doing a great deal better than we are doing at the moment. Even food prices are increasing far more rapidly than this in those sectors where there is no common price system. The real weakness of the present agreement does not, then, lie in the details but in its failure to grasp the main issue facing Europe in its farming policy. How can we bring about the transformation in European farming to an efficient structure such as occurred in the United Kingdom many years ago?

The real criticism of Mr Silkin's conduct of these negotiations is that by selling his agreement in return for an extra halfpenny subsidy he has shown that this is an issue which does not really concern him. When Mr Silkin broke up the last round of talks in March, there was understandable cynicism that he was seeking to gain political capital for his party which was facing a by-election at Stretford. The evidence of that result suggests that if this was indeed his purpose he was remarkably ineffective. It is hard to believe that he, or his party, will wish to make great play in tomorrow's by-elections of the agreement which he has now accepted.

## KING HUSAIN RETURNS TO WASHINGTON

King Husain of Jordan's current visit to Washington is part of a series of meetings in which President Carter is trying to get to know the main Middle East leaders personally and to prepare the ground for a resumption of the Geneva Middle East Peace Conference, which has stood adjourned ever since its first meeting in December, 1973. Mr Vance's tour of the Middle East in February has been followed by visits to Washington from Mr Rabin and President Sadat. Next month Mr Carter will meet President Assad of Syria in Europe, and within the next two months he expects to receive both Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the new prime minister of Israel after the elections to be held in that country on May 17.

In past spins of this Middle Eastern merry-go-round the visit of King Husain has usually been the smoothest and easiest. The Washington Post may have revealed part of the reason for this last February when it reported that for the past twenty years King Husain had been receiving a substantial secret subsidy from the CIA—though that would seem a perfectly reasonable assistance for the United States to offer for King Husain to receive. But that revelation, which was generally understood to come from sources high in the Carter Administration and which the President himself has avoided specifically denying, was bound to make his first meeting with the King a sticky occasion.

So untimely was the revelation, indeed (on the very day of Mr Vance's arrival in Amman), that some of Mr Carter's friends angrily asserted that the leak was actually an act of malice by someone in the outgoing administration. It is certainly true that the President himself at least went through the motions of trying to persuade the Washington Post not to publish it. King Husain himself, apparently, was disposed to blame "Zionist forces" in Washington whose aim was to undermine the growing rapprochement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization as well as the alliance between Jordan and Syria and, more generally, the current Arab "peace offensive".

Further offence was taken in Amman at President Carter's subsequent suggestion that a "homeland" should be provided for the Palestinian refugees. Although most commentators took this as a cautious move towards the idea of a Palestinian state, or at least "entity", on the West Bank of the Jordan, some of King Husain's advisers saw it as veiled espousal of the thesis of some Israeli extremists who see the East Bank (with or without some fragments conceded by Israel on the West Bank) as the proper location for a Palestinian republic which would displace the present Hashemite Kingdom.

It is not surprising, therefore, that King Husain—whose domestic, political and economic posi-

tion is now stronger than at any time since 1967—should have arrived in Washington less effusively optimistic than President Sadat, who is desperate for American aid and whose latest tactic is to make out that his dispute with Israel is a little local difficulty which should be cleared up quickly so that he can get on with the serious business of defending Western interests against Soviet encroachment in Africa. But President Carter, meeting the King for the first time face to face, seems to have succeeded in allaying his worst suspicions.

At least King Husain was able to say on Monday night that their initial talks had given him more encouragement and more hope for a lasting peace. Perhaps he found a better reception than he had expected in Washington for his suggestion that the Palestinians should attend the Geneva Conference as part of a single Arab delegation (rather than on their own or in a joint PLO-Jordanian one). Certainly he must have been sweetened by the announcement on the day of his arrival that the United States would provide Jordan with sixty-four million dollars of technical military assistance to help install the fourteen Hawk missile batteries it is expecting and to train Jordanian troops in their use. In fact this visit shows every sign of going better than his visit to President Ford a year ago, when negotiations on the Hawk deal broke down and the King appeared seriously to consider buying Soviet missiles instead.

into his confidence, and will not commit it (and its descendants) to choices without its full and informed consent.

Having access to expertise in nuclear technology, in energy supply and conversion, and in the other specialist fields which are relevant here, we can go further and express the hope that our Government will follow the responsible and creditable lead of President Carter. Yours faithfully, J. M. ZIMAN, Chairman, Council for Science and Society, K. H. Wills Physics Laboratory, Royal Fort, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol, April 22.

## A plutonium economy

From Professor John Ziman, FRS Sir, The correspondence in your column begun by Justice's letter of concern (March 31) about the probable threats to civil liberties in Great Britain from a plutonium economy, has rightly ranged over a wide field of other dangers. It is the particular concern of the Council for Science and Society to study the social consequences of science and technology. With the Flowers Report here, the Fox Report in Australia, and the recent Keeny Report in the USA to inform us, we are in no doubt about the seriousness of this issue.

Those reports are unanimous in warning us that nuclear fission is an

extremely dangerous process, that plutonium is an extremely dangerous substance, that all humans are dangerously fallible, and that it is by no means over-stating the case to describe the deliberate choice of a plutonium economy as a Faustian bargain.

With a commendable sense of responsibility for future generations, the US Administration has decided not to plunge forward down that path. Our own Government still stands at the cross-roads. Justice has asked that no decision should be taken until there has been a full public debate in which all the possible consequences can be taken into account. We agree, and we share Justice's hope that the Government will take the nation fully

## Future of the 'Evening Standard'

From Mr Arthur La Bern Sir, It is with dismay that I read (The Times, April 23) of the Beaverbrook group's plan to sell the Evening Standard in order to secure the future of the Daily Express and the Sunday Express.

It would be far more commendable of Sir Max Aitken and Mr Jocelyn Stevens if they sold the Daily Express and the Sunday Express to secure the future of the Evening Standard.

Yours faithfully, ARTHUR LA BERN, Savage Club, 9 Fitzmaurice Place, Berkeley Square, W1, April 25.

From Miss Joan Plowright and others Sir, We wish to express our recognition of the unique service done by the Evening Standard to all interested in the lively arts, and we know that we speak for many others who are deeply disturbed at the news of its impending extinction.

Yours faithfully, JOAN PLOWRIGHT, LAURENCE OLIVIER, COLIN BLAKELY, CELIA JOHNSON, RALPH RICHARDSON, ALAN HOWARD, GLENDA JACKSON, 116 Roebuck House, 101 St. Street, SW1, April 25.

## Parliamentary business

From Lady Gilmour Sir, Stress and strain on people in the House of Commons recently came in for some comment.

As a wife of an MP, and coming from a family engaged in industry, I can see the different ways of working. I have no doubt that Parliament puts unnecessary strain on its Members, and particularly its leading figures, because it is so badly organized.

Parliament has it in its own power to make the necessary alterations, and the first of these should be to announce the future business of the House for at least three weeks ahead: no commercial business could exist on the hand to mouth way that Parliament is run, ie announcing business in the House on Thursday for the following week.

Next, Parliament should decide each session that they would set aside three weeks over the Parliamentary year when the House would not meet, and Members would have a whole week in their constituencies or overseas, and this would obviate the sort of journeys that the Foreign Secretary, Dr Owen, and Mrs Thatcher have had to undertake during their Easter recess.

Lastly, the stupidity of not deciding when the summer recess begins should be ended and an announcement made early in the year that the House would not sit beyond the end of July, so that both Members and staff could make proper arrangements for their summer holidays. This is particularly important in the case of the school term begins before the end of August.

Yours faithfully, URSULA GILMOUR, Montraive, Leven, Fife, April 22.

## The cost of Drax B

From Dr J. M. Hammersley, FRS Sir, The Chairman of the Electricity Consultative Councils, deeming it "inflationary and socially unjust" to charge the consumer for the cost of Drax B, prefer to dump the taxpayer instead to obtain "a direct correlation between the spread of the cost and the ability to pay". The taxpayer, wrily smiling at his presumed ability to pay, wishes he could economize as easily as the consumer by the flick of a switch. People are apt to waste things that are free—free in the sense that they have already been forced to pay for them whether or not we really need them. We shall not master inflation until we learn to do without what we cannot afford, including extra coal for another station. Coal is or will become too valuable to burn. Put on another sweater, and switch off! It is time we stopped subsidizing pressure groups.

Yours faithfully, J. M. HAMMERSLEY, Institute of Economics and Statistics, University of Oxford, St Cross Building, Manor Road, Oxford, April 22.

## Erotic theatre

From Mr Irving Wardle Sir, In reviewing Wallace Shaw's *A Thought in Three Parts* at the Greater London Council (April 23), I was right to think that abolishing the GLC would benefit the capital?

For two years I was political assistant to the last Conservative leader of the GLC and I am convinced that Londoners need a strong County Hall to stand up for their interests against Whitehall. At the end of the day it is much better that London's future should be decided by Londoners, elected by Londoners, than by a Minister who is unlikely to come from London.

If the GLC was removed from the scene, all the pressures that led to the London Government Act 1963 would build up again. To take just housing as an example, since 1963 there have been three major reports emphasizing the need for a strategic housing authority in Greater London. The Milner Holland Report (1965) stated "if the attack on shortage and bad housing conditions is to be successful, it must be planned, applied and directed for London as a whole". The Greve Report (1971) reinforced this point of view. The Secretary of State for the Environment recognized the necessity for a strategic housing authority for Greater London in his statement on the Greater London Development Plan in 1975. "The Government endorse the need for

## Preservation of the British archive

From Professor Margaret M. Cowing, FBA

Sir, It will be unfortunate if interest in the Profumo papers obscures the bigger points about the public records made by Lord Teylor in the House of Lords debate on April 23, and by your own articles. The radio new building at Kew bears witness both to the importance of modern public records for scholarship and society, and to their bulk. It is sad that the Government will not permit an inquiry into the system for choosing which records end up at Kew and which are burnt.

My own opinion as a member of the Griggs Committee and of the present Advisory Council, an ex-departmental records officer and a historian, is that the present system is profoundly unsatisfactory. The Griggs Report brought great improvements but some of its recommendations were unenacted and quite new problems have indeed arisen in the past 23 years. As it is, responsibility for departmental records is very diffused; there is little coordination of experience and methods, and no regular methodical training of staff.

Above all, the system is precarious. Departmental records staff still find, as Griggs noted, that their work has low prestige and is not the path to promotion. Some of them do records work reluctantly while others leave just as they become proficient. A good departmental records officer may be quickly succeeded by a bad one, uninterested in the job. The work must be professionalized. By this, I mean that only people with a degree and archives diploma are suitable. I have known executive grade civil servants with neither who have become excellent archivists, have loved the work and would have liked to specialize in it, but they have realized that there is no future for them if they do.

A government archives service embracing the Public Record Office and the departmental records staff would make archive work a real career.

This is not the same as a national archives service to cover many other bodies, which would be costly and could not be considered now. It is not certain that a government archive service would in itself do greatly more for the records system, because the Civil Service already pays large numbers of people to do the records work. The recent depressing experience where administrative reorganization always leads to greatly increased costs need

not be repeated. An inquiry could at least sort out the problems, the possibilities, and the cost.

Yours faithfully, MARGARET GOWING, History Faculty, Indian Institute, Broad Street, Oxford.

From Dr D. W. Rhind

Sir, Your leader on the preservation of the British archive (April 22) stressed the need for a new national archive service, staffed by career officials experienced in the policies of the relevant government departments and by trained archivists. The case for such a service and, as a prior step, for an extended role for the Public Records Office, is overwhelming. However, two important points need to be added to your comments.

In addition to the archiving of memoranda and textual records, it is essential that a national archive should contain statistics collected, and occasionally published, by central government. These are voluminous: as an illustration, the *Guide to Official Statistics* published by the Central Statistical Office in 1976 lists over 1,500 data sources, many producing monthly, quarterly or annual returns. Many of these statistics, particularly the more important ones, are already available more cheaply, more quickly and in a more error free form on computer tape than in paper form.

In addition, many of the analyses now carried out as routine would be unthinkable without the use of sophisticated computing techniques. The consequence is obvious: computer professionals must also be involved in both the archiving system and the service to the user.

My second point is that historians *sensu stricto* are unlikely to be the majority users of an archive containing statistical data: geographers, sociologists, demographers, planners, economists, statisticians and many others are already highly dependent on government-produced data. It would seem essential therefore to have such users represented on a high level steering committee, rather than leave the selection of data to be archived entirely to ministerial whims or precedent.

Yours faithfully, DAVID RHIND, University of Durham, Department of Geography, Science Laboratories, South Road, Durham.

## Promotion on merit

From Mr G. Payne

Sir, I have just seen your report of the work carried out by the Scottish mobility study and presented to the British Sociological Association's annual conference ("Working class supplies third of professionals", March 31).

While your cover was perfectly fair, the abbreviation of several thousands of words into a few paragraphs results in a shift of emphasis which would have misled your readers. Our major concern was to contrast the relative "openness" of middle class occupations (for aspiring sons of manual workers) with the very considerable "closure" of elite positions. Top people such as judges, senior civil servants, cabinet ministers (and Conservative MPs), company chairmen, bishops, etc. are not recruited from among the children of the working class. Barely one in 20 of such posts are filled by men from working class backgrounds.

What makes this a striking finding is that those posts which require ability but involve relatively little exercise of the "professionals"—are open and presumably filled on meritocratic lines. But those posts which require ability and also involve the exercise of real power over events—the "elite"—are still dominated by men born as the families of the previous generation of the elite.

This seems an extraordinary coincidence as to be highly unlikely as the outcome of mere chance. What is it about the processes of selection and recruitment which brings about this pattern? In an era marked by a belief in the existence of a meritocratic system, it is important not to lose sight of such questions about the elite when new findings about the openness of the rest of society are being discussed.

Yours faithfully, GEOFF PAYNE, Director, Scottish Mobility Study, University of Aberdeen, King's College, Old Aberdeen.

## The arms race

From Mr Nikolai Khormuzy

Sir, I warmly welcome Mr Richard Burt's conclusion in your columns on April 19 that it was not Soviet lack of goodwill which was responsible for the absence of positive results from Mr Cyrus Vance's recent mission to Moscow.

Mr Burt, however, finds it more difficult to understand Soviet opposition to the United States proposal for reducing strategic missile and bomber forces.

The fact is that the United States forward-based nuclear systems (some 800 carrier aircraft, ground missiles) and United States aircraft carriers with more than 300 aircraft capable of delivering offensive nuclear weapons, encircled from the arms which are proposed to be limited. There would also remain America's allies, some of whom have their own strategic weapons. All this would change the Soviet-American balance of forces in favour of the United States.

There is no justification for the American side to link the cruise missile with the Soviet medium range bomber called "Backfire" in the West.

The Soviet bomber, with a range

of 1,400 miles, cannot reach the United States. It does not rank as a strategic weapon.

Although the cruise missile cannot reach the Soviet Union from the United States—the ostensible reason for linking the two weapons—it can be transported by the latest United States bomber, by submarine or ship to United States bases close to the Soviet Union to be launched from there, or from an aircraft or ship.

That is why it is classified in official United States documents as a strategic weapon. In short, the United States tried to revise the essence of the 1974 Vladivostok Agreement, although no changes that could effect that Agreement have taken place since then.

The American side seems to be trying to get rid of rather outdated land based missiles and to deploy their nuclear forces at sea rather than to limit the arms race.

Despite these differences the Soviet Union believes that the problem can and must be solved.

Yours faithfully, N. KHORMUZY, London Correspondent of the Novosti Press Agency, 3 Rosary Gardens, SW1, April 20.

## Abolishing the GLC

From Mr Cyril D. Townsend, MP for Bexleyheath (Conservative)

Sir, George Hutchinson is right to record the unpopularity of the Greater London Council (April 23). He is right to think that abolishing the GLC would benefit the capital?

For two years I was political assistant to the last Conservative leader of the GLC and I am convinced that Londoners need a strong County Hall to stand up for their interests against Whitehall. At the end of the day it is much better that London's future should be decided by Londoners, elected by Londoners, than by a Minister who is unlikely to come from London.

If the GLC was removed from the scene, all the pressures that led to the London Government Act 1963 would build up again. To take just housing as an example, since 1963 there have been three major reports emphasizing the need for a strategic housing authority in Greater London. The Milner Holland Report (1965) stated "if the attack on shortage and bad housing conditions is to be successful, it must be planned, applied and directed for London as a whole". The Greve Report (1971) reinforced this point of view. The Secretary of State for the Environment recognized the necessity for a strategic housing authority for Greater London in his statement on the Greater London Development Plan in 1975. "The Government endorse the need for

London's housing problem to be considered as a whole and accept the Panel's view that there needs to be an effective strategic housing authority for Greater London."

With respect, Mr Hutchinson misses the target. County Hall has lost its way and must be pointed in the right direction. It must become a proper strategic and regional authority and there must be clearer lines of responsibility between the GLC and the 32 boroughs. As illustrations, it is wrong that for historic reasons the GLC continues to manage council housing in the boroughs. It should concentrate on exercising strategic planning control. The number of parks and open spaces still retained by the GLC is indefensible. All but the major strategic parks (and the "royal parks") should be transferred to the appropriate boroughs.

It is not good enough to ignore the fact that strategic planning for major cities has become widely accepted not only in the UK but also abroad. In Greater London there is overwhelming evidence that this area of some 610 square miles containing 7 million people must be coordinated from County Hall and not just left to the 32 boroughs. Outer boroughs must help inner boroughs, rich areas must help poor areas, and the full range of transport facilities must be made to work together, for the benefit of Greater London as a whole. Yours faithfully, CYRIL D. TOWNSEND, House of Commons.

## The Civil Service and the TUC

From the Chairman, Association of First Division Civil Servants

Sir, Your leader "The Civil Service and the TUC" makes several points with which the FDA could not disagree. In particular it is reassuring that you acknowledge we cannot be faulted in any way on the propriety of our consultations with the political parties, and that senior civil servants have seen their differences shrink. (To underline the latter point, many of our members have had no salary increase since January 1, 1975. This has not simply shrunk differentials, it has caused a real and steep reduction in real income during a period of unprecedented price inflation.)

However, there are other points on which I suggest that your analysis needs to be qualified. First, the Association represents senior civil servants: it is not, and has never claimed to be the senior Civil Service. This distinction is not mere semantics. The concept of separation of roles (ie the wearing of different "hats" at different times) is the essence of Whitleyism and is well established in many other professions and industries.

Secondly, your speculation about the response of Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries to our enquiry is no more than speculation. As you say the outcome of that part of our consultation was and is strictly confidential.

Third, and most important, you assert that "doubts persist. How can this be? None of our members believes that either the Association or the Senior Civil Service would in fact depart from the tradition of political neutrality should we affiliate to the TUC. The doubts are about whether others would share that view. We hoped that the response of the Conservative Party leadership would have dispelled those doubts. What more can we be expected to do?"

You imply that the Conservative Party, in spite of its public statements, will not make any such giving. We do not know why you should believe that, but if it is so then we hope that they will be expressed to us. If there are misgivings, then we shall of course take full account of them. But we really cannot do business on the basis that public assurances by politicians are not to be taken seriously.

The FDA exists to represent its members as employees on their pay and conditions of service, and—uniquely—to promote the efficiency of the public service. Its Executive Committee believes that affiliation to the TUC would enable us to do that more effectively. As you rightly say "a body of 10,000 will never carry much weight in the higher councils of an organization of nearly 11 million." But any influence is better than none.

Many of our members had no pay increase at all in 1976 because that policy seemed sensible to the TUC leadership. That basis for pay settlements may not be permanent, but equally it will never be held to assert that it will never recur. So we would like to be in a position to discuss our pay and conditions with those who determine or seriously influence them.

However, your readers can rest assured that if on the evidence our members judge that even the appearance (let alone the reality) of our continued political impartiality would be put seriously at risk then they will not vote in favour of affiliation to the TUC.

Yours sincerely, GERRY FLANAGAN, Association of First Division Civil Servants, Minister House, 212 Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1, April 25.

## Elderly travellers

From Dr Alex Comfort Sir, Sir Kenneth Clark (*The Times*, April 15) mentions some of the problems of the travelling old.

One moral annoyance which he omits, but which has been brought to my notice by an exasperated senior, is that when an older person avails him or herself of a reduced rate fare, the ticket is marked "senior". Apparently the cost of specific tickets, or even a rubber stamp to amend existing tickets, is too great to be borne.

One probably has to be oneself old and weary of other forms of discrimination too appreciate the effect of this anomaly. Possibly the older traveller can think himself lucky not to be labelled "dog" or "bicycle", but the courtesy involved in producing more fitting tickets worded simply "special rate" would be cheap at the price.

I am, Sir, etc. ALEX COMFORT, Institute for Higher Studies, McGuire House, 2311 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, California, United States of America.

From Professor Mark Williamson Sir, Judging from the letter from Lady Bragg, Lord Clark should dress himself in drag. Yours faithfully, MARK WILLIAMSON, The Old House, 4 Fulford, York, April 21.

## Preserving peonies

From Dr Alex Pann

Sir, Mr Loudon (letter, April 18) may like to know that the roots of the male peony were used as a remedy for epilepsy, and were highly esteemed for that purpose by the herbalists of the 16th and 17th centuries. The seeds taken in wine or meat were also employed for warding off nightmares. Peony, believed by Pliny to be the oldest of plants, takes its name from Paeon, the god of Healing, who is said to have applied the roots to wounds inflicted by warring gods. Besides Steep Holm, a *Paeonia officinalis* grew wild at one time at Winchcombe in the Cotswolds where there had also been a monastery, but I don't know whether it still does.

Yours faithfully, ALEX PATON, 15 Charlotte Road, Birmingham.

## The good things of colonial rule that Africa should remember

commuting from London once, I had to overhear a somewhat shrill harangue by a stranger in women who renounced the joys of marriage and family to travel in Africa. I did not intervene. After all, I am no Mary Kingsley (though I thought she had actually found Africa as a refuge from a stiflingly dutiful domesticity). I am merely one whose interest in Africa extends over a period of changes as dramatic as those of the Scramble itself must have been—perhaps more so, since, although the lines drawn on the map were the outcome of relatively short discussions, putting their consequences into practice was a gradual affair.

Some of us who were young 50 years ago were caught up in the enthusiasm for a new dawn that seems to follow great catastrophes; I do not mean the 1917 Club, but the staid idealism to which Woodrow Wilson seemed to have committed the League of Nations.

Poor innocents, we thought there would really be a new deal for the "populations not yet able to stand by themselves". The League of Nations Covenant said their "well-

being and development" was "a sacred trust of civilization", and one or two British official pronouncements referred to the principle of trusteeship. When the report of the commission on closer union in East Africa appeared, with J. H. Oldham's splendid exposition of the policies which would have to be adopted to make trusteeship a reality—well, I thought something was going to happen. I had to learn how often governments ask for advice and then disregard it.

In those days, what was called liberalism was still the mark of enlightenment for many people, and it was endorsed by most anthropologists. Malinowski taught us to see the institutions of a people as worthy of respect, as something to the people whose lives they regulated, and as often, better suited to their circumstances than those that administrators wanted to substitute. Granted an element of romanticism in this, it was a useful corrective to the prevalent belief in a single, superior civilization.

But we knew, as he eventually came to admit, that too much had been changed for an ideal past to be restored; and the

Our guest column  
this week is by  
Lucy Mair,  
Honorary Professor  
of Anthropology  
at the  
University of Kent

crucial question was what the line of further change should be. Along with J. H. Oldham and the League of Nations Mandates Commission, we agreed that African land should not be alienated, and that Africans should not be forced either by direct compulsion or by lack of alternative resources to work for wages away from home; and we assumed, not always correctly, that it should always be possible to find some crop that Africans could raise in their own villages.

We thought this would be the best way of developing the resources of Africa, without which it would have lacked such communications, schools and health

services as colonial rule brought to it. We did not think that colonial rule in Africa was by definition unjust, but that what weight we carried—which was not much—should be thrown on the side of justice.

If it is true that those who are justly ruled are more content than those who are not, it could, I suppose, be said that we helped to underpin colonial rule. It is interesting, however, that the territories where development followed the lines that we advocated were the first to demand and receive independence, because more resources had been given to education, and because entrepreneurship had developed, and because there was no entrenched settler interest.

When the dismantling of empire came there was not much for us to say: we did try to counter the wildest allegations of Mau Mau atrocities. The idea that that movement expressed some kind of evil possession which could not be exorcised without confession was shockingly like some of our forebears' notions of witchcraft, but I do not think this was pointed out at the time.

And now? Macrosociologists

have taken over the field and interpret the whole world in terms of embattled classes (or if the exploited classes are not embattled they ought to be). Small communities still exist, but it is becoming unfashionable to record anything about them apart from their material poverty.

The question "Are they happier?" has been asked for decades by people who, for other reasons than Malinowski's thought it would have been better to "leave them as they are". The only true answer could be "Some are, some are not". Are we happy when we look at such a country as Uganda today? The end of empire was inevitable, the process by which it was reached more often a matter of peaceful change than is sometimes supposed; the picture of an heroic fight against imperialism has been a good deal overdrawn. African dictatorships do not provide an argument for the maintenance of racial discrimination; but they may make us think that some aspects of colonial rule did not merit the opprobrium that is the fashionable judgement today.

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Katie Stewart

## The sense of your own yogurt

It is sound common sense to make your own yogurt because it can be expensive to buy in large quantities and once you start to experiment you will find there are lots of interesting ways in which it can be used. You can make your own yogurt with no more than the equipment you already have in the kitchen. But to start off you must buy a carton of natural yogurt. Sterilized UHT milk like Long Life, gives the best results (handy too because you can always keep a supply in stock) and needs only to be heated to the correct temperature. Bottled, pasteurized milk can also be used but it must be boiled and then cooled to the correct temperature. After the yogurt is added, your mixture only requires to be kept warm until it has reached the right consistency. If you like a thicker yogurt, add a spoonful of skimmed milk powder to the warm milk and, by increasing the milk solids, you get a firmer set.

### To make Yogurt

Check that the yogurt used as a starter is at room temperature, not chilled from the refrigerator, and give the contents of the carton a stir to make it creamy.

2 pints UHT milk;  
1 carton natural yogurt.

Pour the milk into a saucepan and heat to slightly hotter than lukewarm. A few drops on the wrist should feel hot, but not burning—on a thermometer the reading should be 110 deg F or 43 deg C. Bring pasteurized milk to the boil for one minute and then allow to cool to the same temperature. Whisk the carton of yogurt into the milk, you can use less—two tablespoons if you prefer over. Pour into a china, glass or earthenware bowl—I choose one from which I can serve the yogurt at the table. Cover with a plate and insulate the dish with one or more towels under, around and over to keep it warm. Leave undisturbed for six to eight hours or overnight. You can take a look at it once or twice just to see how it is getting along. Depending on the time of year, I leave mine either near my solid fuel boiler or in the airing cupboard.

To keep yogurt sweet you must put it into the refrigerator as soon as it has set. Not only does yogurt taste more refreshing when chilled but at this temperature the natural bacteria are dormant. The longer you leave yogurt at room temperature, the more acid it becomes and if left in a warm place long enough, the yogurt will eventually separate into curds and whey. Should this ever happen don't be dismayed! Just tip the contents of the basin into a muslin bag and hang overnight and you will have a curd cheese which you can season and mix with herbs and a little cream and serve as your own soft cheese.

What I have described may seem a little haphazard but like everything else in cookery, once you get the feel of what you are doing it rarely goes wrong. I am the first to admit, however, that the temperature control that you get with a yogurt-making kit is a great advantage. One in particular that I like and use is the Deva Bridge Yogurt Maker which is rather like a large vacuum flask and the new one-litre (2 pint) capacity size makes a good amount for serving. The kit comes complete with a thermometer, a neat little milk sifter, which prevents the milk in the saucepan boiling over, and an instruction book. You really can't go wrong. The kit, costing £7.45 and an extra 75p for postage and packing, is obtainable from Deva Bridge, PO Box No 5 (Dept WH), Stowmarket, Suffolk.

Chilled yogurt takes on a thicker consistency and keeps its nice "set" texture until stirred, when it takes on a creamy consistency. To make fruit-flavoured yogurt you must stir in sugar and a fairly strong

flavoured fruit puree, so with fruit yogurts you always have a softer texture. If you can, let your flavoured yogurt stand in the refrigerator for a few hours, to allow flavours to develop. Flavour natural yogurt with sugar and fruits such as strawberry or raspberry puree, or well-drained tinned blackberries. Experiment with Ribena and you will find canned cherry pie filling is delicious. For a summer dessert try sweetening the yogurt with brown sugar and then adding snipped dried apricots. Leave the mixture to chill for about six hours during which time the apricots will soften and plump up and serve in individual glasses. Another combination (see recipe) very nice is that of brown sugar and seedless raisins which have been soaked in a little sherry before stirring in. You can stir in diced grapefruit or orange segments, honey and brown sugar for breakfast or spoon natural yogurt into a bowl of cereal with chopped apple.

Flavoured with garlic, herbs or chopped chives and a seasoning of salt and pepper, natural yogurt provides the base for a variety of salad dressings that are particularly suitable for summer. Mix yogurt with a little tomato ketchup, a squeeze of lemon juice and then add chopped green pepper and chives, and use as a dressing for avocado halves. If you use a variety of salad dressings that are particularly suitable for summer. Mix yogurt with a little tomato ketchup, a squeeze of lemon juice and then add chopped green pepper and chives, and use as a dressing for avocado halves. If you use a variety of salad dressings that are particularly suitable for summer. Mix yogurt with a little tomato ketchup, a squeeze of lemon juice and then add chopped green pepper and chives, and use as a dressing for avocado halves.

Combine all the ingredients together and mix well. Cut boned fresh chicken meat into two-inch cubes and place in the marinade. Mix well and leave for 24 hours. To cook, thread the meat on skewers and place under the grill for 15-20 minutes, turn occasionally and baste with the marinade. Or you could cook these over an outdoor barbecue grill. Serve on a bed of rice with a crisp cool salad.

You can mix yogurt with custard or with cream for fruit fools or use equal proportions of fruit puree and yogurt. Fold natural yogurt into whipped cream to make a light mixture not unlike the Continental *crème fraîche* and serve over fresh raspberries or on trifles.

Soured cream is another interesting cultured milk product and has little over one-third of the fat content of double cream so it is worth consideration if you like using cream in cooking. Soured cream is not fresh cream that has soured naturally but single cream which has been soured commercially, like yogurt, with a lactic culture. It has a thick, soft consistency with something of the texture of whipped cream but with a sharp refreshing taste. There is no quicker method of making a lovely sauce for vegetables than to use soured cream. Just stir into the contents of one carton, a teaspoon each of finely chopped chives or parsley, a seasoning of salt and pepper and heat gently until warm. Pour over newly cooked new potatoes, or broccoli or best of all broad beans.

You can use soured cream instead of fresh cream in your quiche recipes and you can use it to make lovely dressings too. Try blending four tablespoons horseradish relish into one carton soured cream, add a dash of Worcestershire sauce and a little salt and pepper. Let the mixture stand for one hour and then serve with smoked mackerel, smoked trout or with cold rare roast beef.

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

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## Parsons attacks Drax indecision and plans 1,600 redundancies

By Malcolm Brown

C. A. Parsons, the Newcastle-based electrical engineering company, has announced yesterday that it is to make 1,600 employees redundant. It placed partial responsibility for the cut-back on the Government.

Dr Robert Hawley, managing director of the company, blamed privatisation over the ordering of the Drax B power station as a contributory factor to the company's decision. "If Drax were to go ahead soon we could reconsider the situation", he said.

Yesterday's announcement would appear to increase the attractiveness to Sir Arnold Weinstock of suggestions that GEC should take over the C. A. Parsons part of the Reynolds Parsons group. Sir Arnold, managing director of GEC, is saying nothing about discussions he is having with the Government, but is believed to think Parsons is overvalued.

In a statement, Parsons said that redundancies would start on August 5 and continue until the end of 1978. Substantial manpower reductions had already taken place by natural wastage, the company added, but the continued delay in placing the Drax order and the lack of expected export orders meant that a critical position had now been reached.

Dr Hawley said that during the past two years the company had made it abundantly clear to the Government, the Department of Industry and the Department of Energy, that the Drax order was needed to preserve skills in the North-east in readiness for the recovery in the export market and an upsurge in the home market.

"All in all, the Government has a responsibility to bring Drax forward to preserve the skills we have here. There is still no firm commitment to forward with Drax, and Parsons has already waited many months before being forced into this unfortunate step."

Dr Hawley made it plain that while aware of the GEC takeover plan, Parsons, which acknowledged the need for restructuring of the industry, was in favour of a national company. This alternative, which is favoured by the Parsons unions, would involve GEC and Parsons taking equal stakes in a national turbine generator company and the National Enterprise Board taking a 20 per cent stake. Meanwhile, in an unusual move the Reynolds Parsons board issued a checklist of requirements which any buyer of the turbine generator business would have to fulfil.

Noting that press reports had suggested that Reynolds Parsons had agreed to dispose of C. A. Parsons, the statement said that such reports were "speculative" because no negotiations had taken place. "They are incomplete in so far as they do not mention the conditions on which Reynolds Parsons would have to be satisfied before any such sale could be considered."

Demands laid down by Reynolds Parsons include "acceptance by both management and labour", as stated in the think tank report on the future of the power plant manufacturing industry; fair security of employment between the respective manufacturing units; recognition of the technology at Parsons; the placing of the turbine generators for Drax B with Parsons, and the payment of a reasonable price for the business.

"Reynolds Parsons has constantly maintained that it will cooperate in the restructuring of the industry provided that the interests of employees and shareholders are protected and has offered to consider participation in a national turbine generator company on the lines envisaged for the boiler industry."

This is a pointed reference to the likely changes on the other side of the industry where Babcock and Wilcox and Clarke Chapman are now conducting talks on a possible agreement. It is thought this agreement could take up to another two months to reach. But it might well form the basis for talks with the NEB over forming a national boiler company.

## Mr Varley asked to delay Hitachi venture

By Peter Hill

Mr Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, has been asked to delay for at least six months decisions on plans by the Japanese Hitachi company to establish a colour television assembly plant in the United Kingdom.

The electronic consumer goods sector working party—one of many committees involved in work on the Government's industrial strategy—wants time to enable the working party to draw up a strategic plan for the industry so that the Government could reach a policy decision.

There has been strong opposition to the Japanese company's plans from domestic television manufacturers. Both employers and trade unions are united in opposing the venture, which Hitachi in view of the substantial overcapacity which exists in the industry.

At the end of this week members of the electronic consumer goods working party and the electronics components working party (one of five industrial sectors singled out for priority treatment under the industrial strategy) will meet Sir Peter Carey, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Industry, to discuss the issue.

Sir Peter, who was recently in Japan, has taken a keen interest in the Hitachi venture, and particularly the implications of its recent link with a television tube factory in Finland.

Tomorrow manufacturers and trade unions in the television and components industry will meet MPs in London to step up their campaign against the Hitachi project.

But earlier this week there were indications that the Government might approve the Japanese company's plans, subject to Hitachi meeting tough conditions on the purchase of components from United Kingdom companies and the proportion of home and export sales. Japan's state-owned electronics industry, whose aggressive marketing and price-cutting tactics have led to strong protests by European shipbuilders, yesterday revealed that total ship exports in the fiscal year to the end of last month had amounted to over 6.3m tons compared with nearly 5.4m tons in the previous year.

The four major English clearing banks have been ignored, but the disclosure reveals a 5.81 per cent holding in the Bank of Scotland and a 5.76 per cent stake in the National

Commercial Banking Group. Trusts are strongly represented with holdings of 5.085 per cent in Caledonian Investments, 7.3 per cent in London & Strathclyde Trust, 5.1 per cent in London Scottish American Trust and 5.84 per cent of Royal Bank Trust in Kuwaiti control.

Other financial sector stakes comprise 8.16 per cent of Provident Financial Group and 9.67 per cent of Union Discount. Investments in industrial stocks is far outweighed in the Kuwaiti Investment Office "portfolio" by financial holdings. But beating manufacturer, BBA Group, is 7.94 per cent owned by the Kuwaitis, a stake of 9.99 per cent has been taken by the Kuwaiti Investment Office. Avey's and 5.58 per cent in Trafalgar House.

Financial News, page 24

## School leavers push up jobless total

By David Blake  
Economics Correspondent

Easter school leavers pushed up total unemployment in Britain at the middle of this month; but the number out of work among adults remained virtually unchanged.

Unemployment excluding school leavers was 1,269,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis (5.5 per cent of the workforce), up 1,100 on the previous month. The small increase after improvement in two previous months brought new encouragement to the Government, whose forecasts suggest that the level of joblessness is likely to go on rising throughout the year.

Unfilled vacancies also increased slightly, continuing the favourable trend which seems to have existed since October.

The latest figures are made particularly difficult to interpret because of the sharp increase in the number of school leavers registered as unemployed. At 50,353 the total is up by 19,060 from March because of school leavers at Easter. They pushed up the figure for the United Kingdom to 1,392,250. This was 8,778 above the total for March.

At 5.9 per cent the unemployment rate is the highest for April since the war. The Easter contingent of school leavers will be joined by a time when industrial production is showing any significant growth

likely to boost the crude unemployment figures significantly.

But for adults unemployment has come down by about 11,500 as industries which laid off workers during the winter, such as building, picked up again slightly. It is only after seasonal corrections have been made to the figures that adult unemployment shows a rise during the month to mid-April.

However, the details are interpreted, it is clear that during the past few months unemployment has not continued to increase at the rate of almost 10,000 a month which was being recorded in the latter part of last year.

Some of the credit for this should probably go to the workings of the Temporary Employment Subsidy and other job creation and creation programmes. But these measures may now be coming to the end of their greatest effectiveness and this could mean renewed upturn in the unemployment rate in the months to come.

Uncertainty about whether or not unemployment will rise is a great deal more pleasant than being sure that it will go up. However, government officials have been seeking explanations why unemployment does not seem to be rising at a time when industrial production is showing any significant growth

## REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

The following are the monthly regional unemployment figures, seasonally adjusted excluding school leavers, released by the Department of Employment yesterday:

	Number	Change on month	% of all employees
East	913,300	- 200	4.2
East of England	34,500	- 500	5.0
West	101,500	- 1,100	6.4
West Midlands	133,000	+ 1,400	6.8
East Midlands	72,100	- 400	4.7
Yorkshire/H side	104,500	- 300	5.1
North	185,100	- 1,700	6.8
North West	99,200	+ 200	7.4
Wales	75,700	+ 400	7.2
Scotland	191,300	- 200	5.3
GB	1,278,200	- 1,100	5.5
Ireland	53,400	+ 400	10.0
UK	1,331,600	+ 1,500	6.0

and when employment in the public sector is being held down.

The picture may become clearer next month when figures showing flows on and off the register of unemployed become available for the first time since they were interrupted in October by industrial action by Department of Employment staff.

One calculation which has been done by government officials which would seem to support the belief that unemployment may not grow rapidly in the months ahead is to work out how the wage costs of workers compare with what they produce.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The following are the monthly figures for Great Britain released by the Department of Employment yesterday:

	Total unemployed	Seasonally adjusted	Adults seasonally adjusted	% of all employees
Jan	1,252	1,184	5.0	100
Feb	1,253	1,178	5.1	114
March	1,235	1,183	5.1	120
April	1,231	1,193	5.2	120
May	1,220	1,204	5.2	118
June	1,278	1,210	5.3	114
July	1,402	1,237	5.4	117
Aug	1,440	1,256	5.5	124
Sept	1,395	1,266	5.5	124
Oct	1,321	1,256	5.5	123
Nov	1,316	1,274	5.5	121
Dec	1,316	1,274	5.5	121

\* Excluding school leavers. † Figures not available. ‡ Estimate.

This calculation shows that in 1975 wage costs per unit of output went up sharply, which may have induced the increase in unemployment last year. Since then they have moved back in line with historic trends.

## Credit Suisse refuses £691m standby offer

From Our Correspondent  
Geneva, April 26

The Swiss banking establishment today mounted a big counter-attack against a £691m standby credit offer to the Swiss National Bank.

Two of the "big three" banks joined the Swiss National Bank in offering their wrath. Credit Suisse, standby credit of 3,000m francs (about £690m) to meet investment losses of up to 2,200m francs by three Credit Suisse managers in Chiasso.

After a meeting at the National Bank last night, the three institutions offered to pay the sum at Credit Suisse's disposal "spontaneously" according to the bank's announcement.

But Credit Suisse, the oldest of the three big commercial banks, said it could cover any losses out of contingency reserves. It took pains to make sure its customers and investors were told it did not need the credit.

Swiss banking shares had

probably one of their worst days ever today. Even the Swiss franc was infected by the nervousness as investors switched into United States dollars and the West German mark.

The announcement of the offer standby credit did little to stop Credit Suisse shares sliding 10 per cent down on the Zurich exchange during the day.

The public prosecutor in the southern Swiss Ticino region has accused three Credit Suisse managers of "disloyal management" and falsifying documents.

The investment money came from 120 Italian customers of Credit Suisse, which was used over a period of years into a Liechtenstein holding company, Texon Finanzanstalt of Vaduz. This was founded in 1961, with capital of 50,000 francs (about £10,000), though this increased steadily to 1976.

Texon, according to Credit Suisse, which has taken control of the company's as yet un-

realized assets, owns the Wine-food group responsible for a significant part of Italy's wine production.

It is also said to hold the capital of the Albarella company, the owner of a luxury holiday centre near Venice and the Ampaglas plastics company of Tribiano, near Milan.

The customers had fiduciary accounts under which the bank trades in its own name with their money and at their risk. The risk began to reveal itself 12 days ago when Credit Suisse announced the company—without naming it—was in difficulties and the bank could lose up to 250m francs (about £50m) as a result of the transactions.

The public prosecutor said the Chiasso branch even offered guarantees worth 250m francs to the investors—all this without informing head office or keeping the books that would have warned Credit Suisse headquarters in Zurich what was going on.

Credit Suisse shares, which had just squallied their year's

high, dipped about 3.5 per cent in the week that followed. But when the public prosecutor announced the arrests and the dimensions of the scandal yesterday, Credit Suisse shares slumped by 20 per cent in two days' trading.

The bank promised today that bona fide account holders at Chiasso whose money slipped into the coffers of Texon could have 75 per cent of it back immediately if they wanted it. The rest was held back on the orders of Swiss authorities to meet any claims for tax or negative interest.

This did not mean Credit Suisse was keeping in with an arm to pay out 1,600m francs (£400m) immediately. The stress was on bona fide on the clients who came to the Chiasso branch in good faith and then saw their money disappear. The credit standby offer, almost resolutely spurned, looked as if it had been put forward on the loan offers to allow national economies by the International Monetary Fund.

## Wilson team postpones decision over City report

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke  
Financial Editor

Sir Harold Wilson's City Committee has still not decided whether to go ahead with plans for an interim report later this year on its central theme, the provision of funds for industry.

Yesterday's meeting of the Committee—its third since it was set up by the Prime Minister in response to left wing calls for banks and insurance company nationalization—was largely inconclusive. This was partly because several important submissions, notably those from the Confederation of British Industry, the Stock Exchange, the Bank of England and the Accepting Houses Committee, have not been delivered despite the pre-Easter deadline set by the Committee.

After its second meeting in February the Committee decided to ask two leading bodies whether they could submit preliminary evidence on the subject of industrial investment funds within two months.

At the time many felt that this was an impossible stringent deadline, and for some it quickly became clear that this was so. Moreover, while the Wilson Committee asked for evidence urgently with the idea that this could be amended or withdrawn later, some institutions have been unwilling to make their views known on this basis.

Certainly, the Stock Exchange and the Accepting Houses Committee, which represents the interests of 17 leading City merchant banks, felt that any view they put before the Committee should be fully considered and able to stay on the record.

The Stock Exchange, which now aims to deliver its views on funds for industry, is considering whether its submission should be published almost at the same time as it is delivered to the Wilson Committee in early June.

Mr Tim Cohen, director general of the Accepting Houses Committee, said yesterday that it was unlikely that the AHC should try to produce an "off the cuff exercise" on a vitally important subject, particularly since it was representing the views of 17 banks. Nevertheless, yesterday's meeting of the Committee was able to discuss several submissions, notably those from the clearing banks.

The Committee's next meeting is on May 10, but since outstanding sections of evidence are unlikely to be in before the date, it is not clear whether or not to produce an interim report later this year may not be decided now until later in the summer.

Since other "providers and users of funds" have been invited to put submissions to the Committee on the so-called stage one of the inquiry, it could be late July, allowing for some further slippage, before the Committee is in a position to decide whether it can produce an interim report of any significance by the end of the year.

It is known, however, that the four-strong trade union representation on the Committee, headed by Mr Len Murray, the TUC General Secretary, is particularly anxious that the Wilson team should make an early contribution to the debate on industrial investment.

## Kirkby cooperative gains £860,000 further state aid

By Maurice Corina  
Industrial Editor

Against the advice of the Industrial Development Advisory Board, the Government is to give £860,000 in state aid to the Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering Co. as a cooperative at Kirkby, Merseyside. This sum is in addition to the controversial £3.9m grant made just over two years ago.

When the cooperative, called Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering Co., was set up with the blessing of Mr Benn, then Secretary of State for Industry, the advisory board took the unusual course of laying a statement of its objections to state assistance before Parliament.

Yesterday, Mr Varley said the extra £860,000 was to finance future activity. The cooperative had assured the Government they would not have to apply for further state aid.

"I have consulted the IDAB who did not recommend support for the cooperative and did not comply with the criteria for selective financial assistance laid before the House in January, 1976", Mr Varley disclosed. In view of severe unemployment in Kirkby, he had decided to offer the grant to give the cooperative the maximum opportunity to make a success of their venture, and thus to secure 775 jobs.

It is not known whether Mr Peter Carey, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Industry, who ministered objection to the original Kirkby grant, has recorded any further dissent.

Engineers seek to upset TUC recruiting ruling  
By Derek Harris  
A request to overrule its disputes committee's findings in the first round of an inter-union battle over recruitment of professional engineers will be put to the TUC General Council today.

The disputes committee came down on the side of the Technical Administrators and Supervisors Association (TASS) of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers over recruitment of professional engineers at the GEC reactor equipment complex at Whetstone, Leicestershire.

## Banks and insurance revealed as Arab havens

By Ray Maughan

Investments in shipping, radar and weighing machines have emerged as havens for Arab funds under the new disclosure rules. But banking, insurance and investment trusts are the chief targets.

The Kuwait Investment Office revealed yesterday that it holds a 9.97 per cent stake in Sun Life Assurance; 5.875 per cent of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance and 6.22 per cent of Legal & General Assurance Society. In the insurance broking sector, the Kuwaitis hold 8.44 per cent of Alexander Henderson and 6.9 per cent of Stenhouse Holdings.

The four major English clearing banks have been ignored, but the disclosure reveals a 5.81 per cent holding in the Bank of Scotland and a 5.76 per cent stake in the National

## Shell shares boosted by hopes of dividend relaxation

By Ronald Pullen

Shell Transport and Trading, the United Kingdom arm of the Royal Dutch Shell oil group, is understood to be representing its case for freedom from dividend restraint to the Treasury.

In a rare comment on stock market rumours yesterday, which had sent the shares 15p higher to 524p before closing a net 4p up at 512p, Shell admitted that it had applied for exemption from the United Kingdom rules in March at about the same time as Inche's successful application, but had been turned down.

A spokesman for Shell said "no fresh application is at present before the authorities, but the possibility of a further one cannot be ruled out."

The Treasury refused to comment on the rumours, but it is thought that it would be unlikely to exempt Shell from the present rules. Although several companies have successfully negotiated their way round dividend restraint, including Ocean Wilsons, the Zochs, and the Tinto-Zinc, on the grounds that the bulk of their assets and

## How the markets moved

The Times index: 173.54 + 0.34  
The FT index: 421.0 + 2.0

**Rises**  
Allied Lda 5p to 71p  
Ass News 9p to 174p  
AVP Ltd 9p to 74p  
Berkley Hambro 9p to 91p  
Bibby 20p to 16p  
Bibby & New 19p to 105p  
Gt Portland 10p to 23p  
Hambro Life 8p to 225p  
Lud & House 294p to 974p

**Falls**  
Barclays Bank 5p to 240p  
Blythwoods 20p to 280p  
Dormfontein 15p to 175p  
Graham Hides 3p to 58p  
Imp Chem Ltd 4p to 34p

Equities rallied from a weak start. Gilt-edged securities saw little business. Dollar premium 124 per cent (effective rate 47.323 per cent). Sterling was one point up at £1.7192. The "effective value" rate was 61.8 per cent.

**On other pages**  
Business appointments 24  
Appointments vacant 22  
Letters to the Editor 26  
Bank Base Rates Table 26  
Annual Statements 24  
Remorse Corporation 24

**THE POUND**  
Bank Bank  
Australia 1.61 1.56  
Austria Sch 30.25 28.25  
Belgium Fr 64.50 61.50  
Canada \$ 1.24 1.19  
Denmark Kr 10.61 10.21  
Finland Mk 7.20 6.95  
France Fr 6.57 6.45  
Germany DM 3.24 4.02  
Greece Dr 65.00 62.00  
Hongkong \$ 8.30 7.45  
Italy Lc 1945.00 1490.00  
Japan Yu 500.00 475.00  
Netherlands Gld 4.41 9.37  
Norway Kr 9.37 9.01  
Portugal Esc 64.00 64.25  
S African R 2.05 1.98  
Spain Pes 121.50 113.50  
Sweden Kr 7.75 7.40  
Switzerland Fr 4.74 4.72  
US \$ 1.76 1.71  
Yugoslavia Dnr 34.25 32.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied previously. Bank rates only as supplied previously. Bank rates only as supplied previously.

Commodities: Coffee prices dropped. Rubber's index was at 173.5 (previous 173.5).  
Reports pages 24, 25 and 26

**THE POUND**  
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Austria Sch 30.25 28.25  
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Portugal Esc 64.00 64.25  
S African R 2.05 1.98  
Spain Pes 121.50 113.50  
Sweden Kr 7.75 7.40  
Switzerland Fr 4.74 4.72  
US \$ 1.76 1.71  
Yugoslavia Dnr 34.25 32.00

## Mexico raising £90m five-year floating rate loan

Mexico's Public Works Bank—Banco Nacional de Obras y Servicios Públicos SA of Mexico—is raising \$150m (nearly £90m) through a five-year floating rate loan.

The initial coupon on the loan (for which syndication begins on Wednesday) is not yet known. But it is believed that it will follow the pattern set by the Petroleros Mexicanos issue a month ago, it being at a given margin over the London rate on interbank money in the first two years, and at a higher margin in the final three.

Management group for the loan, led by Orion Bank, includes: Banco de Santander, Bank of Montreal, Bankers Trust International, Dresdner Bank and Lloyds Bank International. Libra Bank and Pittsburgh National are co-managers. The proceeds of the loan are to be used to finance public works in Mexico.

## Sir William Ryland to retire on October 31

Sir William Ryland (right), chairman of the Post Office for more than six years, is to retire on October 31. Sir William's departure is expected to be earlier than had been expected at his own request.

He apparently feels that his successor will need to take over the chair as soon as practicable if he is to grapple with the problems of restructuring the corporation which are likely to follow the Carter Committee investigation into the Post Office's structure.

Sir William was originally to retire in December, 1974, but agreed at the request of the Secretary of State for Industry to continue for a further three years.

The new chairman of the corporation has not been announced.

## Brooke Bond to raise £19.8m by rights issue

Brooke Bond opened the rights issue gates a little wider yesterday with its second fund raising exercise in less than 18 months. Shareholders in the tea, coffee and confectionery group are being asked to put up £19.8m on a one-for-four basis at 40p.

Explaining why it had decided to come to the market for the second time, Brooke Bond said that tea and coffee prices had almost quadrupled since December, 1975, when the group successfully launched its £12.7m issue.

The rise in commodity prices was chiefly responsible for the £40m rise in stocks between this date and March 31, 1977, and the resulting sharp rise in gross borrowings from £78m to £111m.

Financial Editor, page 23

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# Mr Healey hopes London summit will aid world recovery hopes

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, April 26

Mr Denis Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, hopes that the summit meeting in London will strengthen confidence in the industrial and financial world, on both sides of the Atlantic, in the probability that the present pace of recovery will be sustained through next year.

The Chancellor told the National Press Club here that there is widespread concern that the world economic recovery will not last and that there will be a move back to recession. He hopes that the summit conference will give reassurance that "the world economy is on course".

Mr Healey was confident that agreements in principle would

be reached at this week's International Monetary Fund meeting on the creation of a new facility to strengthen the fund's financial resources, and on an increase in IMF member country quotas.

He said: "We are not a bit worried about the withdrawal of the United States tax rebate proposal in view of current developments in the American economy, and so long as this economy does achieve the 6 per cent real economic growth rate now being predicted by the Administration." But he did note that one of the most difficult problems to be discussed this week and at the summit was how to stimulate further the world economy, while avoiding a new upswing in inflation.

The Chancellor was optimistic

about Britain's economic prospects, noting that the inflation rate will be down to about 7 per cent by the summer of 1978, that the balance of payments would be in substantial surplus next year and that "we will succeed in negotiating a new pay policy agreement".

In answer to a question, the Chancellor said: "There is no risk whatever of unemployment reaching two million by the end of this year."

He said that the inflation rate is likely to rise in the next few months, but it should start to decline in the autumn, reaching a 12 per cent rate by the end of December and single figures by the second quarter of next year. Real growth in Britain, however, will only be about 1.5 per cent.

# Leyland truckdrivers end strike but Ford peace talks break down

By R. W. Shakespeare

One of two major disputes in the motor industry which have made some 16,000 workers idle and cost production losses of around £20m, ended yesterday when 80 truck drivers at Leyland's Jaguar plant in Coventry called off their strike.

But at Ford's plant at Halewood on Merseyside shop stewards walked out of a meeting with their management at which fresh attempts were being made to settle the 10-day-old strike by 1,000 toolroom and maintenance engineers that has caused layoffs of 9,000 workers.

The dispute over a claim by the drivers to be re-

classified into a higher pay grade has cost Leyland production of cars worth about £5m. The company has still refused to meet the drivers' claim which has also failed to find support from the Transport and General Workers union.

Last night a Leyland spokesman said that the 5,000 workers at the car assembly and nearby components plant would be recalled tonight.

At the Ford plant the shop stewards abruptly ended their talks with the management yesterday when the company refused to rescind a disciplinary suspension imposed on 8 men last week, for leaving early.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The descending ceiling of 'higher paid employment'

From Mr P. Nicholson

Sir, The Finance Bill defines "higher paid employment" as "employment with emoluments at the rate of £5,000 a year or more". Miraculously the Bill will substitute "£7,500" for "£5,000" for the year 1978/79.

In 1974 the Government's reference to the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Incomes and Wealth stated that there was a need for a comprehensive and objective analysis of all forms of income from employment and self-employment at the higher levels "exceeding, say, £10,000 a year before tax".

In 1975 higher paid employment was defined as £8,500 pa for the purposes of incomes policy. Any worker earning more than that experi-

enced frozen pay for two years.

Meanwhile, the higher rates of income tax have moved from £2,000 to £5,000 and now £6,000 taxable income in the present Finance Bill.

It would be interesting to know by what criteria and definition higher paid employment moves from £10,000 in 1974 through £8,500 in 1975 to £7,500 in 1978, what with inflation and all that means.

Perhaps it all depends on whose fingers are on the piano. Yours faithfully,

PAUL NICHOLSON,  
General Secretary,  
Confederation of Employee Organisations,  
39 High Street,  
Wheatthorpe, St Albans, Herts AL4 8DG.  
April 22.

## Public service charges and the Price Code

From Mr D. H. G. Tollema

Sir, I wonder if anyone can tell me why the government offices and local government authorities are not subject to the Price Code, like us lesser mortals?

During the past month I have:

- (1) Applied for a duplicate driving licence. The form said that the fee was £12.50. I received a letter from the vehicle and driving licence authority in Swansea telling me to send a further £17.50 (printing the form (obtained from the Post Office the day before) they told me the fee had gone up to £2—this is an increase of 800 per cent).
- (2) I also collected my wine licence (we have a small off licence). The local authority now charge £6, last year it was £2. This is an increase of 300 per cent.

The Government is trying to keep inflation down. Should they not set an example?

Shouldn't the Government be subject to the Price Code? Are they within the law in increasing their charges by so much?

Yours faithfully,

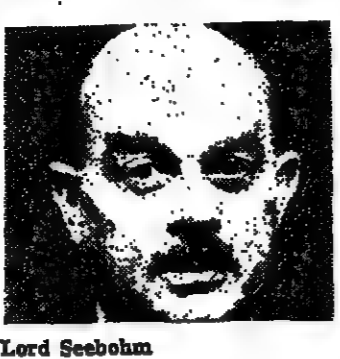
D. H. G. TOLLEMA,  
76 The Mint,  
Rye, Sussex,  
April 17.

# In brief Finance chief advises industry 'invest now'

Companies considering capital investment should take advantage of today's favourable interest rates, Lord Seeborn advised Teesside and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday.

Lord Seeborn, who is chairman of Finance for Industry and its subsidiary Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation, a major source of long-term finance for small and medium-sized companies, said that interest rates were unlikely to drop much further, if at all, in the foreseeable future.

But with continuing inflation the costs of installing new plant and machinery would continue to rise. The longer industrial investment was delayed, the more expensive it would become.



Lord Seeborn

# American CIA sees Russia as oil importer 'within a few years'

From Frank Vogl  
US Economics Correspondent  
Washington, April 26

Oil production in the Soviet Union will soon peak, possibly as early as next year, and will certainly not later than the early 1980s, according to a detailed report on USSR oil prospects that has been declassified and released by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The decline in Soviet oil output could have a major effect on this country's foreign trade position. Oil exports to the West from the USSR, which now provide 40 per cent of total annual Soviet hard currency earnings, will probably fall substantially. Exports of Soviet gas will rise, but will not compensate for the loss of earnings from the export of oil, noted the CIA.

Last year the Soviet Union produced 104 million barrels of oil per day and for a short period it may soon achieve maximum output of 11 to 12 million barrels a day. But the bulk of Soviet production has come increasingly from fields approaching exhaustion, and to offset depletion the USSR will have to develop new capacity from 1976 to 1980 of some 7.8 million barrels a day. The CIA suggests that this cannot be achieved.

The Soviet approach to oil, according to the CIA, has led to an emphasis on development drilling over exploration, with the result that new discoveries are failing to keep pace with output growth; over production of existing wells and fields through rapid water injection and other methods, with the result that less of the oil in place is ultimately recovered; and new capacity requirements that soon will run far beyond the Soviet oil industry's capability.

The CIA, together with other sources, has estimated that its "best estimate" of proven Soviet oil reserves is 30,000 to 35,000 million barrels. However, development in such large areas of reserves as the Arctic, Eastern Siberia and offshore sites is seen as being a least a decade away.

Only a small contribution to total output is likely in the early 1980s from new offshore Caspian wells, and new discoveries on the east shore of the Caspian Sea and in the Caspian region west of the Ural.

The CIA has also asserted that its estimates show that the Soviet Union will fail to achieve its present goals of keeping output levels nearly constant west of the Ural, while doubling production in West Siberia. It noted that last year about 60 per cent of West Siberian production, equalling one-fifth of total Soviet oil output, came from the large mammoth field, which will not be able to maintain its high output level for more than another four years because of mounting water incursion.

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compared with 14 ships totalling 51,600 tons in the corresponding period of last year.

The industry's total order book at the end of last month amounted to 195 ships of 2.7 million tons gross with a value of £931m. A year ago the industry held orders for 235 ships totalling 3.9 million tons, with a value of £1,048m.

The concern of the organising committee for British Shipbuilders, the new Shipbuilders' Association, formally constituted, although the new body is to be vested on July 1, must be to secure new orders at the earliest opportunity.

# Outlook 'grim' for yards

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Correspondent

Prospects are grim for Britain's shipbuilding industry, soon to be nationalised. Although there was a near doubling in the volume of new orders in the first three months of this year compared with the corresponding period of last year, ships are still being completed at a faster rate than orders are being secured.

Figures issued last night by the Shipbuilders and Repairers' National Association, showed that United Kingdom yards obtained orders for 18 ships in the first three months of the year totalling 96,700 tons gross

# Tanners seek court injunction

By Derek Harris

Tanners objecting to the National Enterprise Board's proposed £3m support for the tanning interests of Barrow Hepburn Group, yesterday issued an interlocutory summons to secure a court injunction to halt the deal.

The NEB had said it would not complete the deal with the Barrow Group until after Friday, but was expected to complete the deal with the Barrow Group put through final completion by next Monday.

If the group of tanners secure the injunction it could postpone completion of the deal until the case was considered

# British goods in EEC countries

From Frau Eunice Herfurth

Sir, Will someone be kind enough to explain to me how the EEC works; why most British commodities sold on the Continent cost from 80 to 100 per cent more than in the United Kingdom?

If British manufacturers, in agreement with their German counterparts, prefer to sell fewer goods at high prices to the small class of people who can afford them to providing

a larger section of the population with goods at lower prices, they are doubtless acting in the interests of their shareholders, but it is difficult to see how the average consumer benefits by the EEC or how the number of British unemployed is likely to be substantially reduced by it.

Yours faithfully,

EUNICE HERFURTH,  
Drosselweg 12,  
2409 Scharbeutz,  
West Germany.

# Heat-power findings: time for action

From Mr W. L. Wilson

Sir, A brief reading of the Department of Energy's report on combined heat power schemes supplemented by seeing Kenneth Owen's report "More heat than light" (April 15) sent me hurrying to by Microscopica Academica to rediscover that apt statement: "There is only one argument for doing something; the rest are arguments for doing nothing." And I was reminded that at least 20 years ago, nearer 25 I think, the same arguments for doing nothing were actively discussed.

Now that public debate is going to be thrown into the mid-mesh of doubt, it seems likely that at least another 25 years will elapse before a further similar report is produced, and longer before any positive action is taken.

The findings of the Department of Energy's report are by no means new. Less sophisticated examinations of the subject produced the same kind of favourable answers in 1965 and 1968 and nothing came from them either. One other—happy—thing consistent in

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A keen interest in high quality presentation, design, typography and layout, within restricted budgets, experience in dealing with graphic designers and printers and the construction industry, press and P.R. would be an advantage.

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Stephens Selection

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The annual salary will be £3,500 (at age 24 and under) to £4,500 (at age 30 and over). The person appointed will be required to reside in Oxford and to be available for work at the University of Oxford.

Dr W. S. C. Williams, Department of Nuclear Physics, University of Oxford, Oxford, OX1 3JF.

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required for major construction company in Jordan, currently handling road and construction projects in excess of 50 million pounds sterling. The person appointed will be required to institute a management system and to control and administer the company in all its aspects. He will therefore have had several years' experience in a similar position, and whilst not necessarily an engineer will be familiar with all types of construction work. A substantial tax free salary is offered, together with family accommodation and fares etc. Initial period of contract will be not less than 2 years. Please write in first instance to the Managing Director, G. K. McDONALD LTD., Chelmsford Road, Dunsmuir, Essex.

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## THE EDINBURGH ACADEMY DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

This post will become vacant as the present incumbent retires. The successful candidate will be responsible for the musical life of the Academy, which includes the Edinburgh City School of Music, the Edinburgh City School of Music, and the Edinburgh City School of Music. The post is full-time and requires a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar position. The salary is £3,500 p.a. plus benefits. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, Edinburgh City School of Music, Edinburgh, EH1 1JY.

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## ONE TEACHER OF TYPEWRITING

needed for the Edinburgh Academy. The successful candidate will be responsible for teaching the children of the Academy the use of the typewriter. The post is full-time and requires a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar position. The salary is £3,500 p.a. plus benefits. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, Edinburgh Academy, Edinburgh, EH1 1JY.

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## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

### University of Botswana and Swaziland (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BOTSWANA)

Applications are invited for the post of **RESEARCH OFFICER (Biochemistry)**. The successful candidate will be responsible for the research work of the Department of Biochemistry. The post is full-time and requires a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar position. The salary is £3,500 p.a. plus benefits. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, University of Botswana and Swaziland, Gaborone, Botswana.

### University of Otago

Applications are invited for the post of **RESEARCH OFFICER (Biochemistry)**. The successful candidate will be responsible for the research work of the Department of Biochemistry. The post is full-time and requires a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar position. The salary is £3,500 p.a. plus benefits. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.

### University of Ife

Applications are invited for the post of **RESEARCH OFFICER (Biochemistry)**. The successful candidate will be responsible for the research work of the Department of Biochemistry. The post is full-time and requires a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar position. The salary is £3,500 p.a. plus benefits. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, University of Ife, Ibadan, Nigeria.

### University of Malaya

Applications are invited for the post of **RESEARCH OFFICER (Biochemistry)**. The successful candidate will be responsible for the research work of the Department of Biochemistry. The post is full-time and requires a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar position. The salary is £3,500 p.a. plus benefits. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

### University of Ibadan

Applications are invited for the post of **RESEARCH OFFICER (Biochemistry)**. The successful candidate will be responsible for the research work of the Department of Biochemistry. The post is full-time and requires a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar position. The salary is £3,500 p.a. plus benefits. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria.

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## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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The appointee must have suitable qualifications and experience. The successful candidate will be responsible for the physics department of the University of Malaya. The post is full-time and requires a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar position. The salary is £3,500 p.a. plus benefits. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## A hazy line on dividend restraint

In the wake of such large groups as Inshape and Rio Tinto-Zinc escaping the dividend control net, it comes as something of a cold douche for those hoping for a more temperate line from the Treasury to find that Shell Transport & Trading has been turned down flat by the Treasury in its application for exemption, presumably on the same grounds as the others that the lion's share of assets and earnings are outside the United Kingdom.



Sir Humphrey Prideaux, chairman of Brooke Bond. Another rights issue—this time of £19.8m.

Of course, there is no love lost between the Treasury and the oil companies given the latter's ability to minimise their tax payments in the United Kingdom and as the Chancellor said in his latest budget the authorities are trying to plug some of the obvious gaps. But there is also a doubt that giving the oil companies exemption would create far more political difficulties than for RIZ for example given the relevance of petrol prices, say, for retail prices.

J. Bibby

### Bid talk again

Bibby's shares rose 20p to 46p yesterday making an increase of 30p since they went ex-dividend just over two weeks ago. Rumours of a bid so far seemed to be based more on hope than substance, but should not, perhaps, be dismissed out of hand.

On trading grounds the shares have gone just about as far as they can, the prospective p/e ratio of under five is well below the sector average, but the yield of 6.2 per cent is not far out of line. Bibby has a rather chequered recent record and although profits now look to be on a strong upturn, animal feed remains dependent, at least to some degree, both on cereal prices and the weather, and there is worldwide over capacity in seed crushing, which has proved a persistent problem.

There is more to the group than that and it should not detract from the evident management successes, but Tiger Oats and National Milling, the South African group which picked up most of its 30p rise yesterday, are still a long way from the status of a "strong animal feed" and have not had an easy ride.

### Brooke Bond Second bite

Soaring working capital requirements are forcing Brooke Bond to come back for a second bite at the rights issue cherry in less than 18 months. Nearly quadrupled tea and coffee

prices since the last funding exercise are largely responsible for the £40m jump in stock in the current year while the sharp rise in debtors, too, has only made matters worse.

Having journeyed through the 1975-76 profits upturn with only a marginal increase in net working capital, it is not surprising that the latest pressures have resulted in gross borrowings mushrooming from £78m in the last balance sheet to £110m at present, although the fact that some four-fifths of this is in overseas currencies is not quite the same danger now that sterling has quietened down.

The sharp rise in borrowings has brought in its train an uncomfortable deterioration in gearing from 41 per cent of shareholders' funds to around 60 per cent at present. The current £19.8m issue will chop this back to a more manageable 40 per cent though with rising commodity prices likely to push in another £50m or so of working capital a broadening of the asset base is a sensible if not essential requirement.

### Sears Balancing out

Last year's losses of the United States knitwear manufacturing business of Sears Holdings were greater than expected, at £1.1m; but gains on the sale of the home goods footwear and stores businesses were bigger too, and the net result is a marginal improvement in profits, at £45.3m against £44.7m, ahead of the non-trading items which Sears habitually adds to the line.

However, a £7.2m turnaround here—reflecting the cost of United States closures and exchange exposure on overseas loans—and a tax charge whose gross proportions (65 per cent) are entirely due to unrelieved United States losses, have left the earnings more than 30 per cent down. But that has not inhibited the board from recommending the maximum increase in the dividend, so that the

shares at 43p (up 3p yesterday) yield an attractive 81 per cent. But that is the full extent of their attractions. For assuming that Sears manages to sort out most of its North American problems this year—and despite share closures and some savage devaluations, the best the company is committing itself to this time is much reduced losses—that the loss-makers in the engineering division are restored to break-even, and that the betting shops—plagued last year by thin fields and unfavourable weather—recover some of their former shine, the implication is for pre-tax profits (excluding non-trading items) of around £56m, and earnings per share (on a more reasonable tax charge) of little over 5.5p.

Even allowing for more from footwear and the stores division—where Selfridges alone now provides a half of trading profits—the prospective p/e ratio is unlikely to drop below seven. An end-year property revaluation will probably push net asset backing over 70p a share; but it is still unlikely that Sears will outperform the market in the foreseeable future.

Final: 1976/77 (1975/76)  
Capitalization £138m  
Sales £793m (£715m)  
Pre-tax Profit £42.47m (£49.12m)  
Earnings per share 3.6p (5.3p)  
Dividend gross 3.55p (3.23p)

### TKM Through the fire

Bad debt provisions in North America, closures in the British textile business and write-downs against a range of problem areas overseas, hopelessly mark the end of three difficult years for Tozer Kemble & Millbourn.

Pre-tax profits 56 per cent ahead at £5.42m in 1976 give an altogether too sanguine picture of the past year's trading at TKM. Further "very significant" bad debt provisions have been made to cover the continuing recession in Canada on TKM's trade finance operation there; a problem only reflected in the revenue and not in the balance sheet. Canadian losses not being off-settable against other group earnings. The tax charge is brought down to an aggregate 48 per cent by tax relief on United Kingdom textile company losses, underlined.

TKM's loss of last year's "very significant" bad debt provisions, perhaps half of the 39 per cent increase in turnover to £909m, can be put down to currency exchange and exchange rate movements. A significant underlying growth in business world-wide which should help the international trading side, particularly if it can now put past year's provisions behind it.

The Price and Pierce timber and woodpulp side perked up towards the end of the year. And TKM's motor concessions performed impressively last year, the Mazda dealerships in France boosting unit sales there from 3,500 to 18,000 and BMW sales in this country proving increasingly profitable on maintained sales of around 9,500 cars.

TKM does not expect a marked trading improvement this year. But even a marginal upturn this time will look impressive without 1976's deadweight of provisions. And the recovery potential, along with a yield of 7.8 per cent at 49p, up 3p on the results, has its appeal.

Final: 1976 (1975)  
Capitalization £138m  
Pre-tax profit £5.42m (£3.47m)  
Earnings per share 7p (5.2p)  
Dividend gross 3.75p (3.41p)

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Oliver Stanley looks at the Finance Bill in the context of tax reform

## Another flurry of gratuitous complexities

Tomorrow yet another Finance Bill begins its long parliamentary process towards enactment. By comparison with Mr Healey's four previous contributions, this year's is a slim, elegant volume—50 clauses and nine schedules, a mere *soupeon* by the gross standards which prevail.

We have become so accustomed to annual Finance Bills, which dramatically transform whole chunks of law, that one which "merely" puts tax rates and reliefs down and up—and spreads over "only" 78 pages comes as an anticlimax.

This, however, is not a time when the Government wish to walk out along political planks for the sake of its tax philosophies—whatever they may be. Nor one in which it has muscle to resolve the fiscal quandary in which the country finds itself.

What Mr Healey needs is a pay agreement and to secure that he would gladly increase income taxes as an "anti-inflation surcharge" as he did in 1975—or cut them, as this year's Finance Bill remains on occasion when Parliament can make progress towards national economic recovery via tax reform. This is the true standard by which Finance Bills must be judged, on this year's fallaciously short of ideal.

Still, the Commons has three months to work on it. The relevant criteria were last month outlined in *The Times* blueprint for tax reform. The first problem is that of marginal rates. These now rise so high over so wide a range of incomes as to act as a major depressant on the economy.

What, so far, has Mr Healey done about it? The top rate for 1975-76 was 38 per cent and it is no lower for 1977-78.

Progress towards this peak is less steep up to the £15,000 income point. From there onwards and irrespective of whether a pay agreement is reached, the marginal rate remains unchanged at 70 per cent.

The speed of the progression has been slowed but not the altitude. Nor is the progression scale made any smoother or more logical by this year's Finance Bill. In fact the best rate is reduced to 33 per cent there will be an awkward jump from this to a 40 per cent rate at the £6,000 per annum point.

At the other end of the scale—the threshold—Mr Healey gets beta plus for revalorising personal reliefs to counter about one year's fiscal drag, and he can claim a similar achievement at the higher rate threshold point. To counter the total fiscal drag since his first Budget would have been impossible and no permanent solution to the problem seems to be envisaged.

### Rough justice

The most urgent need now is for some form of inflation relief to be given against capital gains tax, now simply a tax on inflation. The choice lies between a sophisticated indexation sub-system, with all the complexity that implies, or a crude tapering of the rate of charge related to the period during which an asset is held.

The rough justice of the latter must be preferable, but the whole problem has now, it appears, become one for the next Conservative Chancellor, rather than for Mr Healey.

As to the second problem, that of the incomprehensibility, every annual Finance Act adds further layers of obscurity and this year's is no exception. Even the welcome relaxations of tax pressures, for example in the new rules for earnings from overseas work, so hedged about with provisos and stipulations as to make them almost wholly counter-productive. Here is an irresistible example, one of many—determining what is a "long" absence:

"Where... a period consisting entirely of days of absence from the United Kingdom ('the relevant period') comes to an end and there have previously been one or more qualifying periods, the relevant period and the (or, if more than one, the last) qualifying period together with the intervening days between those periods shall be treated as a single qualifying period provided that—(a) there are no more than 62 intervening days; and (b) the number of days in the resulting periods which are not days of absence from the United Kingdom does not exceed one-sixth of the total number of days in that period."

As long as the Commons is invited to enact this sort of stuff, no real progress is being made. Moreover, if marginal tax rates were not so high, there would be no need to create more costly and invidious sub-systems.

The same criticism can be applied to the new treatment of child allowances. The changeover to child benefits has produced a flurry of gratuitous complexities—children living abroad, first children, children following advanced courses, children over 19, are all now to be treated differently. The rules, which will be operative for 1977-78, will be changed for 1978-79... And so on.

There is nothing here that can be regarded as simplifying the system and making it easier to move towards self-assessment in any form. On the contrary, this is the old, familiar, hopelessly search for equity carried to its traditionally absurd lengths, proliferating new sub-rules and loading the administration with intolerable burdens.

Thirdly, the Finance Bill does not address itself to a glaring

indefensible anomaly: the application of two or more taxes, for example capital gains tax and capital transfer tax, to one single transaction—for example the gift of a property from father to son.

Another familiar trick, performed in this year's Bill, is to introduce a new set of restrictive provisions parcelled up and concealed within a clause which purports to alleviate a problem. This was a feature of the Revenue's original proposals for the "more generous" treatment of overseas earnings—that the required 30 days overseas should be continuous—but that was spotted and triggered off an outcry of protest, and Mr Healey backed down.

### Capital gains

In his Budget speech, Mr Healey promised to improve the treatment of capital gains, by modifying the rules applying to company takeovers, amalgamations and reconstructions. That he has done, by enacting that it shall no longer be necessary for the bidding company to secure control. It will be enough that it gets one quarter of ordinary shares.

Slipped in neatly at this point is a new requirement that no deduction for capital gains tax should be given unless the exchange or reconstruction is for "bona fide commercial reasons" and does not form part of "a scheme, of which the main purpose, or one of the main purposes, is avoidance of liability to capital gains tax, income tax or corporation tax."

The wording is familiar, and so are the additional rules permitting (they encourage) application for a clearance from the Board of Inland Revenue graciously to give its Good Housekeeping Stamp of Approval or not, as the case may be.

Here is the Inland Revenue Department pursuing its endevouring crusade at its delect.

Peter Zentner

## Bulgarians thriving under the Russian wing

Bulgarians queue for meat, toilet paper and driving lessons, but they are delighted with their country's progress. Shop windows display a range of imported goods, and living standards are compared with both their Romanian neighbours and their own pre-war lot. Bulgarians are indeed doing well.

Bulgaria before the war was an agricultural backwater. Its farm technology was the wooden plough. Industrial imports, often labelled "European", underlined the country's exclusion from modern Europe.

Today, within one generation, the country has become an industrial nation. What Bulgaria manufactured during the whole of 1939 it produced within the first week of 1977.

This leap into the industrial league of nations is the outcome of Bulgaria's economic links with the socialist bloc and with the Soviet Union in particular. The Soviet Union has played the role of investor, supplier of oil, raw materials, machinery and technology, and above all, it has provided a huge captive market for Bulgarian goods.

No less than 79 per cent of Bulgaria's foreign trade with the other Comecon countries. A massive 54 per cent is with the Soviet Union alone. In 1939 Bulgaria's exports to the Soviet Union were nil and imports almost the same.

In contrast to its neighbour Romania, which has sought a measure of political and hence also economic independence, Bulgaria has welcomed integration within the Comecon bloc. Indeed, in the short term, Bulgaria's consumers have benefited from this policy.

Almost unlimited Soviet money has helped to create totally new industries. These new industries could, and can, produce to maximum capacity

knowing that the giant Soviet market will soak up everything produced. In this way, without having to rely on sales in the highly competitive markets of the West, Bulgaria has achieved a price balance which has become one of Europe's largest manufacturers of forklift trucks. Bulgaria has a fast growing electronics industry with calculators and other export items going to the Soviet Union and other Comecon countries.

Building of bulk carriers and river tankers has been given impetus through a safe Soviet market. During the present five-year plan, for 1976-80, Bulgaria is concentrating on machine building and metallurgy, buses and tractors, electronic and electrical equipment and chemicals. The aim is to increase industrial production by a further 55 per cent.

During this would not be possible without reliable supplies of Soviet oil and raw materials sold at advantageous rates. In 1974, after the world price of oil had quadrupled, the Soviet Union continued to supply oil to Bulgaria and Comecon at old prices. During that year alone the difference between the Soviet Union's oil earnings in Eastern Europe and the oil market value amounted to a Soviet subsidy of \$3,000m.

In 1975 Bulgaria's oil imports doubled the 1974 price, or still half the then going rate for oil. Today Bulgaria pays about three quarters of the world price.

Although it is never officially admitted, Bulgaria probably buys Soviet raw materials even more cheaply than do other Comecon countries. It is believed that Bulgaria may pay as little as 50 per cent to 75 per cent of going East European

rates, already lower than world prices. The words of Georgi Dimitrov, founder of the post-war Bulgarian state—"For the Bulgarian people, friendship with the Soviet Union is just as vitally necessary as is the air and sun for every living creature"—have some economic substance.

However, growth from a low base, though impressive, is not without its problems. Rapid postwar investment has also been described as helter-skelter industrialisation. There is an immediate need to modernise obsolete plants.

During the 1976-80 five-year plan 55 per cent of total capital investment will be devoted to modernization and reconstruction programmes. The present Bulgarian slogan is: "Efficiency and quality. Quality and efficiency."

Bulgaria imports less from the West than any other East European country. As a result, it has been less affected by the West's recent economic problems.

Western imports have not, as in Poland's case, meant imports of excessive inflation. Nevertheless, purchases from the West are important. Advanced equipment and technology will give a much-needed boost to the country's programme of modernization.

Past purchases from the West have been partly financed by western credits. By the end of 1976 Bulgaria's outstanding international hard currency debts amounted to approximately \$2,000m. The ratio of debt to hard currency exports earnings is the least favourable within Comecon, where most member countries have their own sizable international debts.

However, western bankers are not unduly anxious. It was noted, for example, that Bulgaria's balance of trade with the West showed a marked improvement in 1976: exports were up by 13 per cent, while imports were lower by 15 per cent.

You might say that every share exchange has the defect of capital gains tax as one of its purposes, although whether that purpose is, or is not, a main purpose (whatever that may mean) is admittedly questionable.

The effect will certainly be that no one will dare carry out any share exchange of substance without first submitting to this board for a clearance.

There are other transactions where this is so, and the result has been a compound confusion. It is so difficult to elicit in all such administrative procedures, how the board forms its view. It is under no obligation to give reasons for its decisions and the effect is often that of abuse of power.

What used to be a reasonable mechanism will now become an impossible one. Soon, we will have a rule that says no relief against tax is to be given, if the sole or main purpose of claiming it is to seek to reduce tax!

This is not the only aspect of the Bill affecting administration, another area ripe for real reform. On the bonus side, value-added tax machinery is required to harmonize with the new urgency to harmonization now being extended to cover income tax rates?

Less obviously, provision is made for the Special Commissioners—the subsidiary tribunals of first instance which hear appeals—to publish reports of their findings, with the consent of the taxpayer but without citing his name. Anything which removes unnecessary secrecy and obscurity is welcome, but how much revision of whole assessments and appeal procedure is needed that this step is in isolation—a curious one.

Presumably a new body of precedent law is to be built up, fresh reading matter for taxpayers and their advisers.

Although industry has become the cornerstone of the economy, agriculture accounts for 20 per cent of gross national product and 35 per cent of exports. But it is the system of industrialized farming, complete as developed by the Bulgarians which has become a special feature. There are now about 170 industrial agricultural complexes, which start with seed and livestock in the field and finish with tinned vegetables, fruits and meats in the factory on the spot.

The Bulgarians' standard of living continues to improve. Though wages are still low, by 1980 they should have increased in real terms by 20 per cent. To buy a car may take two to three years of waiting; to be housed in a new apartment may take much longer. But more goods and services are becoming available—and 1977 will be the first year of colour television.

## Provincial Building Society

### Notice to Investing Members

Provincial Building Society hereby gives notice to investing members that the rates of interest paid in all departments will be reduced by 0.80% per annum with effect from 1st May 1977. The differentials on existing Term Shares will remain unaltered. On and after this date new investment monies will be accepted at the following rates—

Interest Rate (Income Tax Paid)	Gross Equivalent Yield at Basic Rate of Tax	Guaranteed Differential above Paid-Up Share Rate (New Investment from 1st May 1977)
Paid-Up Shares	7.00%	10.77%
Regular Saving Shares	8.25%	12.69%
High Yield Shares		
2 year term	7.50%	11.54%
3 year term	7.75%	11.92%
4 year term	8.00%	12.31%
Monthly Income Shares		
1 month's notice	7.00%	10.77%
2 year term	7.50%	11.54%
3 year term	7.75%	11.92%
4 year term	8.00%	12.31%
Ordinary Deposits	6.75%	10.38%

### Notice to Borrowing Members

Provincial Building Society hereby gives notice that the rate of interest charged on all classes of mortgage account will be reduced by 1.00% per annum with effect from 1st May 1977.

PROVINCIAL

Head Office: Provincial Building Society  
Provincial House Bradford BD1 1NL. Telephone: 0274 33444

Approved £250 million.

Over 180 branches throughout the UK.

Effective from 1st May 1977.

## Business Diary: BL's McGrath • Hint of mint

The new finance director of British Leyland's £600m truck and bus division, Business Diary can disclose, is Mr Peter McGrath, now finance director of the £340m National Freight Corporation.

A 45-year-old economist, McGrath has had a fascinating decade in transport: first as assistant controller with Ford of Germany, then controller of corporate finance at British Rail and now at NFC.

He is moving, he says, because "invariably it's a challenge", because he'll be getting about £22,000 a year instead of £19,000 and because "if British manufacturing fails, Britain fails," and he wants to get back into the manufacturing act.

He will be sacrificing his public-sector inflation-proofed pension but does not want to be one of those people who "looks forward to the graveyard before he gets there."

Here are his thumbnail sketches of three highly disparate transport undertakings he has been with. Ford of Germany: "The secret of Ger-

man success is not that they work harder, but because they all pull in the same direction". British Rail: "They have as many good people as Ford but they don't put them to the test. People have to realize they can't stay in the same place for ever."

NFC: "More like Ford than BR, but lacks the sticks and carrots of financial independence". If Ford is private sector and BR/NFC public, McGrath sees British Leyland as "hybrid" and truck and bus a particularly exciting part of it.

"People don't realize that truck and bus makes a better profit than average for British industry," he said. McGrath succeeds Jerry Clancy, who is now director, parts and service, Leyland Cars. Until McGrath's own successor is found, the acting finance director at NFC will be James Watson, who came in from British Road Services three months ago.

### Thorny crowns

The Queen's Silver Jubilee on June 7 is nigh, but where are her Jubilee crowns? Bank branches excusing the shortage of crowns pin the blame on production difficulties at the Royal Mint. But the Mint claims that it has just only one day's production since it started striking the coins; so why the hold-up?

It seems that demand has simply outstripped supply. When the crowns were planned the mint ignored suggestions by the banks that there should be a production run of only 10 million. The Mint, having turned out two million crowns for the Fest-



Hollywood

"It's only a matter of terminology: why can't free collective bargaining be called phase three?"

material vie with private orders and a heavy demand from tourists, the banks say. When supplies start getting through to bank branches again crown hunters will find Lloyds the "best buy". Unlike the other banks, who do however give away a soft plastic pouch with the crown, Lloyds does not charge for its hard plastic presentation case. That case costs National Westminster's customers 10p a time and at Midland those wanting a hard case are put in touch with the manufacturers.

The Mint took a gamble, doubled the banks' estimates and went for a production run of between 20 and 25 million. But even that estimate may prove to have been on the low side.

The four main clearing banks have already handed over their counters more than seven million crowns and have orders with the Mint for several million more. Barclays and the Midland had sold just under two million each by last week and Lloyds has sold or has orders for a similar amount. National Westminster reports sales of three million so far and describes demand as "hectic".

Bulk orders from schools, associations and companies using the coins as promotional

On the spree

If you're fed up competing with Arab visitors for the eye of West End taxi drivers, waiters or shop assistants, then it probably doesn't help to reflect how good it is for the balance of payments or somebody's shares.

Nonetheless, collectors of out-of-the-way information may care to note that the British

### Nettlesome

For 50 years a West German businessman has been paying farmers and gardeners in and around the small German town of Magstadt, near Stuttgart, for growing plants that most people only want to destroy.

Fields of stinging nettles, dandelions and yarrow grow at his bidding.

This seemingly eccentric behaviour has helped build up a flourishing family concern with an annual turnover of about 30m Deutsche marks (about £6.9m). For Walther Schönbeger, who is 76, the plants are not weeds but a vital raw material. Their juices are extracted and go into natural health care preparations produced by his company.

The business has been operating for half a century and is doing well, as the Germans are increasingly turning to natural health preparations to help them combat the stresses and strains of modern life.

## BEMROSE CORPORATION LIMITED

Packaging Printing Transfer Printing Publishing

	1976	1975
Year ended 1 January 1977	£'000	£'000
* Group turnover	33 019	27 217
* Pre-tax profits	2 211	2 071
* Net assets per share	86p	78p
* Earnings per share	11.57p	10.41p
* Dividend per share	2.6936p	2.4505p

## Extract from the Chairman's statement:

"The Group increase in sales of 21% to £33.02 million is very satisfactory and demonstrates a continuing ability to maintain the growth trends established over the last decade."

P.O. Box 52, Weymouth Drive, Derby DE2 5XP.

Telephone Derby (0332) 21242.

## RICKMANSWORTH &amp; UXBRIDGE VALLEY WATER COMPANY

Placing of £2,500,000  
13 per cent Redeemable Debenture Stock, 1984  
at 99 per cent

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the above Stock to be admitted to the Official List. The Stock will rank for interest *par passu* with the existing Mortgage Debentures and Debenture Stocks of the Company.

In accordance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange £250,000 of the Stock is available in the market on the date of publication of this Advertisement. Particulars of the Stock have been circulated in the Extra Statistical Services Ltd., and copies may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) for 14 days, from and including 27th April, 1977, from

Seymour, Pierce & Co.,  
10 Old Jewry,  
London, EC2R 5EA

## SUNGEI KRIAN RUBBER ESTATES LTD.

## SIR JOHN BARLOW'S REVIEW

The sixty-eighth annual general meeting was held on 26th April 1977 in London.

The Chairman, Sir John D. Barlow, Bart, said—

The profit for 1976 was £473,000, which almost reached the record profit of 1974. The dividend was 50p per share, which was 55% more than last year, because the Company is free from the current limitations on dividends.

## OUTLOOK

The current price of rubber and palm oil is higher than in 1976, so we should earn a larger profit in 1977. The report and accounts were adopted.

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Rally on N Sea hopes

Share prices staged a strong rally from early weakness with the FT index, 38 lower at 11 am, closing a full two points better at 421.0.

The initial nervousness had stemmed from worries about US inflation and interest rates. But as the day progressed reports of a faster than expected build-up in North Sea oil production and hopes that more companies will gain exemption from dividend restraint created some interest.

This, combined with a lack of sustained selling, was enough to send most prices ahead. A good deal of the dividend talk centred on Shell and, to a lesser extent, Unilever, but when it was learned late in the day that the oil company's request had been turned down its shares fell sharply.

In the gilt-edged market US considerations brought some early nervous selling at the short end of the range and prices were soon three-eighths lower than their overnight positions.

Cavenham, unmoved at 141p remains a speculation on the day. Sir James Goldsmith's CO swallowing the 49 per cent it does not own. The logic of a deal has lost none of its force. Sir James's wish for 100 per cent control of Cavenham's resources, including its liquidity and the minority wish to escape from being one. The gossip suggests a deal at 150p or more, possibly in this account or the next.

But steady, though limited, buying took prices up from their lowest levels and by the close most stocks were between one-eighth and one quarter down. A late attempt by "shorts" to go even better fizzled out. Long dates met with little enthusiasm and ended a quarter point off.

By far the firmest sector of the market was properties where the continued lowering of interest rates and a "buy" recommendation brought a good deal of interest.

The shares of Land & House had an eventful session before and after the news of agreed terms from Friends Provident.

The shares were suspended at 69p, returned at 100p, the value of the bid, and closed 29p up at 97p. The suspension is said to be the first time that such action has been taken under the

new rules concerning price sensitive information. Elsewhere on the pitch Hay's Wharf reacted 4p to 148p after Monday's strong showing in the hope of better terms from Ocean Transport. Peachey continued to attract support, rising another 11p to 49p, and there were spectacular gains from Great Portland 10p to 228p, Bernard Sunley 9p to 164p, Land Securities 9p to 179p, Berkeley Haubrook 6p to 51p and Haslemere 6p to 188p.

On the electricals pitch there was a late spurt from Reynolds Parsons after redundancy news had earlier hit the shares. They closed 8p ahead at 176p after touching a "low" of 166p. Profit considerations continued to help Farnell which put on another 3p to 131p.

In foods a £20m rights issue left Brooke Bond at a subdued 49p, off a penny, while speculation continued to help J. Bibby which gained another 20p for a final figure of 146p.

In oils Shell fell back late in the day to end 4p ahead at 512p after touching 527p on the earlier dividend hopes. BP stayed depressed by Wall Street and closed 2p off at 908p, while Petrofina managed a £2 rise to £102 as the Ekofisk news assumed a brighter aspect.

The North Sea production news and the publication of the "brown book" were also a help to stocks with oil interests, notably Thomson Organisation, up 14p to 508p, and Associated Newspapers, which put its Fleet Street considerations to one side and rose 9p to 174p.

Among the "blue chips" the dividend talk brought a late spurt to Unilever which added 8p to 468p. Most of the others were in retreat, notably ICI 4p

to 346p, Glaxo 3p to 470p and Fisons 2p to 335p.

The best of engineering were Hawker Siddeley 10p 57p, Vickers 10p to 171p, APV 8p to 400p and on the strength of profit statements, Simon 4p to 170p and Hopkinson 6p to 80p. APV was speculatively wanted at 74p, a gain on the day of 9p.

Higher profits and a scrip helped Davies & Newman to soar 19p to 105p, while another spectacular rise was scored by Newarthill, which ended 12p

Wall Street is reported to be buzzing with talk of an American bid for Ultramar, London resident of a further £100m company could probably run up against the anti-trust laws but that the Indonesian gas venture is an obvious attraction. In common with others on the pitch the shares were a firm 158p.

After some initial disappointment with figures Sears Holdings rallied to close 3p up at 43p. FC Finance were at an unchanged 35p.

In after hours trading the continued fall in the Shell price was the main feature. But the North Sea stocks continued to make more ground and Gramplan TV added a penny after figures which were deemed to be satisfactory.

Gilts moved little, but Silentnight were at a firm 60p after news of the recovery dividend.

## Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Bodycote Int (5p) Fin	1.28	1.05	—	2.43	2.21
Brook St (10p) Fin	3.03	—	—	4.2	4.2
Davies & Newman (25p)	4.5	30/7	—	7.19	6.5
Fairbairn Lawson (25p)	1.6	0.97	—	2.6	1.78
F. C. Finance (25p)	1.5	1.5	—	1.5	1.5
Gramplan (25p)	1.37	17/6	—	1.97	1.62
M. Y. Barr (10p) Int	0.64	0.62	—	0.1	0.02
Newarthill (10p) Int	4.4	18/6	—	4.4	4.0
Newman Granger (10p)	0.33	0.48*	20/5	—	1.1
Richards & Winton (10p)	2.38	2.1	—	4.04	4.04
Sears Holdings (25p)	2.38	2.1	—	2.38	2.1
Siemens, Hunter (10p)	1.07	0.97	—	2.13	1.94
Silentnight (10p) Fin	2.49	2.25	—	3.64	3.31
Spencer Gears (5p) Int	0.28	0.28	—	—	0.97
Stirling Shoes (25p)	1.54	0.37	—	1.54	0.7
Unicrom (10p) Int	0.35	0.1	1/7	—	0.4

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. \* Adjusted for scrip.

## Friends Prov in agreed takeover of Land &amp; House

By John Brennan

Land & House Property Corporation and Friends Provident Life Office have agreed the terms of a £9.5m cash offer for the property investment and development group. Rumours of the 100p a share bid were rife as trading started in the stock-market yesterday and this speculation triggered for the first time, the Stock Exchange's new powers of suspension over

shares influenced by price sensitive information. Suspended at 69p at 9.30 the shares were marked up to 100p when dealings were resumed after the announcement of the terms at 11.00. They closed 21p off their top price at 97p.

Friends, Provident, a long-standing development funding partner of Land & House, already had the support of 45.6 per cent of the shares for its

offer. Land & House's directors, who unanimously recommended acceptance of the offer, have accepted on behalf of their own holdings accounting for 27.3 per cent of the shares. The other major shareholder, General Accident, with 12.5 per cent of the group has indicated that it would not bid for the group and has now accepted the terms.

Friends Provident itself already held a 5.8 per cent stake.

On acceptance Mr Arthur Tomkins, Land & House's managing director, would receive just over £2.5m cash for his personal holding.

Although the offer is well below Land & House's last reported figure of 165p net assets per share, the group, and its financial advisers, Schroder Wagg, consider the terms to be "fair and reasonable".

The Greenbank subsidiary, which accounts for a substantial part of the engineering division, benefited from improved productivity in difficult trading conditions, while Royles, in its first full year as a group subsidiary, made a significant contribution to profits.

In the event, the second-half brought an upsurge of 253 per cent in profits to £593,000.

At half-time, the group saw its pre-tax profit plunge 72 per cent to £114,000 but the board was confident enough to maintain the dividend at 1.8p gross. Mr Eric Hurst, the joint chairman said that "a degree of caution" was needed when viewing the prospects at home, where the employment agencies make up 95 per cent of the business. Also, the Australian group had losses of £50,000 and these were expected to persist.

The record, profits are accompanied by a 45 per cent dividend increase to 4p gross as predicted and a one-for-four scrip issue. Earnings a share rise from 5.37p to 9.56p.

Fairbairn, which is 29 per cent held by the United States Clabbe Corporation, says that several acquisition possibilities are currently under consideration. Sir John Lawson, chairman, says that the group is looking for similar sized operations in the belief that unity of several medium-sized companies could be timely.

Helped by last year's cash-raising exercise, the balance sheet has been strengthened considerably with shareholders' funds rising from £2.2m to £4.2m and a reduction in bank overdrafts from £2m to £800,000. Despite the 26 per cent turnover increase assets were reduced by 6.5 p cent.

All the group's major divisions performed well last year with engineering chipping in £1.3m of trading profits against £300,000 from packaging and £128,000 from office furniture. Exports accounted for 35 per cent of total sales.

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At half-time, the group saw its pre-tax profit plunge 72 per cent to £



2 months	Pa-2a	3 months	Pa-3a
4 months	Pa-4a	6 months	Pa-6a
6 months	Pa-6a		
<b>Local Authority Bonds</b>			
1 month	Pa-1a	7 months	Pa-7a
2 months	Pa-2a	8 months	Pa-8a
3 months	Pa-3a	9 months	Pa-9a
4 months	Pa-4a	10 months	Pa-10a
6 months	Pa-6a	12 months	Pa-12a
7 months	Pa-7a		
8 months	Pa-8a		
9 months	Pa-9a		
10 months	Pa-10a		
11 months	Pa-11a		
12 months	Pa-12a		
<b>Secondary Issr. SCD Rates: 1-12</b>			
1 month	Pa-1a	13 months	Pa-13a
2 months	Pa-2a	15 months	Pa-15a
<b>Local Authority Markets:</b>			
2 days	Pa-2a	3 months	Pa-3a
1 month	Pa-1a	6 months	Pa-6a
1 day	Pa-1a	1 year	Pa-1a
<b>Interbank Market:</b>			
Overnight	Open Pa-0a	Close Pa-0a	
1 week	Pa-1a	1 month	Pa-1a
2 months	Pa-2a	2 months	Pa-2a
3 months	Pa-3a	3 months	Pa-3a
6 months	Pa-6a	6 months	Pa-6a
12 months	Pa-12a	12 months	Pa-12a
<b>First Class Finance Revenue Mt. Rate of</b>			
2 months	Pa-2a	6 months	Pa-6a
<b>Finance House Base Rate 12-15</b>			

[illegible]





## Properties under £25,000

## LONDON PIED A TERRE

TWO FULLY FURNISHED STUDIO FLATS,  
FOR SALE IN W.2.

Each flat consists of entrance hall, one room, tiled bathroom, open plan kitchen with cooker, fridge, stainless steel sink with waste disposal unit, extractor hood, kitchen cabinets, door entry phone, fitted carpets and gas C.H.

94 year lease

£8,900

Modern furniture can be taken over by negotiation

AGS PROPERTY

458 6338 office hours, 01-794 2189 outside office hours.

## Properties under £25,000

## Comrie, Perthshire

Detached bungalow built 1974. Situated in much sought-after village, 52 miles from Glasgow and Edinburgh, with panoramic views to surrounding hills. Full double-glazing, loft and wall insulation. Off peak heating throughout. Large lounge, dining room, fully fitted kitchen with dining area, 3 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes; bathroom with shower. Integral garage workshop and walk-in store/freezer room. Rateable value £132.

£20,000 o.n.o.

For further details and appointment to view  
PHONE: COMRIE 728

## London &amp; Suburban property

## WANDSWORTH COMMON

Large double fronted Victorian house with 800 sq ft garden. In the popular block of Baskerville Road, right in the centre of the Common. Short walk to the local "village" shops, excellent school and all amenities, and only 15 minutes drive via Wandsworth Bridge, to Chelsea. Renovated over past 10 years, inc. gas c.h., but you'll probably want to make some changes. 3 reception, 6 well proportioned bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and space for 3, breakfast room, kitchen, cellar and workshop. Excellent value at £42,500 or try offer for quick sale.

## GRAFTON SQUARE, S.W.4

4 storey Regency-style house in the historic and elegant square in the heart of old Grafton. Carefully renovated to exceptional standard. Formal drawing room, separate dining room and large fitted kitchen, principal bedroom with en suite bathroom and dressing room, 2 more double bedrooms, shower room, and glass study with north light in 45ft. garden. Gas C.H. Numerous extras. £45,000.

## TUTAN "BEC" KHAMUN, S.W.17

Artist's handsome Victorian semi-detached terrace of a house on the edge of Tooting Bec Common. Restored to perfection, highlighting its very ornate Victorian features. Immense playroom of wide entrance hall, separate formal dining room leading into original conservatory transformed into gleaming kitchen overlooking the 70ft. mature garden. Upstairs drawing room, 4 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and stylish or 5th bedroom plus, on the ground floor, self-contained granny flat with own entrance. A truly fabulous house for £35,000.

Bell Son &amp; Co., 73 Battersea Rise, S.W.11. 01-228 4116

## WANDSWORTH TOWN

An antique dealer's well restored and modernized Victorian end-terrace small house with gas C.H. and larger than usual, more secluded than usual South London. Garden, 10 mins. walk from Tube. 2/3 bedrooms (bath- room off 2nd bedroom), 2nd recep., with French doors to garden 18ft. 5in. deep, ground floor c.g. £19,500 F.H.

## WANDSWORTH

Four floors of vivid colouring with a 60ft. mess of a rear garden, require a new owner with imagination. Suit 4 beds, 2 bath, 2nd recep., plus 2 self-contained basements. Possibility of off-street parking. £23,000 F.H.

## BATTERSEA

Well maintained small house near station 2/3 bedrooms, 2 recep., breakfast room, kitchen, modern bathroom and patio. £18,500 F.H.

## CLAPHAM COMMON

London and Suburban column (£25,000).

## JACKSON ROSE &amp; CO.

286 King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.3  
01-352 1086

## CRISP ROAD, W.5

Stable flat, 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £13,500.

## CATHEDRAL ROAD, W.4

Attractive modern ground floor flat, 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £13,500.

## FIELD ROAD, S.W.10

Converted 2 bed flat, 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £13,500.

## ROSWALL ROAD, S.W.5

Scenic 1st floor 2 bed flat, 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £13,500.

## MAY &amp; CO.

302 FULHAM RD., S.W.10  
01-352 8431

## Woodcocks

01-794 1151

## Hamstead Heath, N.W.11

Attractive, first floor flat in Clarendon Road, Hamstead Heath, N.W.11. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd recep., 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

## GLAPHAM SOUTH

Super sunny flat in modern block, on 2nd floor, 2 bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom and w.c. 2nd recep., phone, postage. C.H. and C.H.W.

## Swimming Pool

95 years leasehold, 3 mins. from Underground and shops. Parking space.

£14,750

Tel. 01-673 4823

## TEDDINGTON RIVERSIDE

Delightful views from luxury flat in block, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd recep., 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

## BATTERSEA PARK

Well modernized ground floor flat with extensive views over the river, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd recep., 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

## FELIX &amp; FAIR

01-727 0083

## RICHMOND

Compact Victorian Cottage with walking distance to station, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd recep., 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

## OAKLEY ST., S.W.3

Pied a terre just off Kings Road in the heart of Chelsea. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd recep., 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

## BARGAIN AT £9,950

Pair of charming period cottages converted to 2 modern flats in lovely Victorian terrace, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd recep., 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

## TWO LAMBERTHURST AND FRANT, KENT

In magnificent rural setting in grounds of large country house, 1 mile from public highway, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd recep., 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

£22,500, REF. 563

Powell &amp; Porter, Forest Road, 222 2281.

## CLAPHAM COMMON WEST SIDE, S.W.11

Elegant and spacious terr. property, built early 19th century, with 18 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

## CLAPHAM COMMON WEST SIDE, S.W.11

Spacious Victorian residence, situated between Clapham and Wandsworth Common. Features include: 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd recep., 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

## R. BARCLAY &amp; CO.

228 6588

## EAST KENT

Spacious ground floor townhouse, 2nd floor flat, 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

## CLAPHAM COMMON

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John Hogg &amp; Sons, 11 Cadogan Place, London, W.1. Tel. 01-488 3841/2.

## EXMOOR

Beautifully situated cottage overlooking river Barle and glorious valley, down secluded lane in Duvion. Tastefully modernized 3 bedrooms/bathroom, w.c., sitting room, dining room, kitchen, New oil-fired central heating. C.H., w.c., garage. Parking, small garden.

£15,500 FOR QUICK SALE

Phone: Duvion 2333  
Photographs available

## SURREY

Conveniently commutable - 15 mins. to M25, semi-detached, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd recep., 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

## BILAND &amp; CO.

12 Finchley Road, N.W.2  
01-352 2701

## BLACKHEATH, S.E.3

Easy run double glazed semi-detached, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd recep., 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

## GARFIELD HILLMAN &amp; CO. LTD.

161/163 Temple Chambers, Temple, London  
01-352 2701

## REIGATE

4 beds, 1 recep., use of communal pool, well fitted kitchen, lovely garden. £24,500.

## PEARSON COLE

REIGATE (74) 4371.

## HIGGATE N.6

Spacious flat in luxury block, large living area and balcony, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd recep., 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

£19,250

Tel. 01-405 0908 (day)

01-348 4374 (eves.)

## OLD CHURCH ST. CHELSEA

Purpose built block, fully furnished, ideal for sale. Low outgoings, good reception room, kitchen, dining room, bathroom, immaculate decor. 2nd floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd recep., 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

£19,500, REF. 563

Powell &amp; Porter, Forest Road, 222 2281.

## EALING COMMON

Ideal flat, suitable for one person, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd recep., 10 mins. walk to station, 10 mins. walk to school, 10 mins. walk to shops. £14,750.

£16,500 o.n.o.

01-579 6812 AFTER 6 P.M.

## S.W.8.

Warm, friendly terrace house in quiet cul-de-sac. Large L-shaped sitting room, 3/4 beds, 2 baths, tiny garden. £18,250

01-582 0268

## WEST KENSINGTON

Maisonette, 2 bedrooms, living room, huge kitchen/diner, bathroom. £14,850

Clive Sainsbury & Assoc  
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## Superb Detached Homes

5 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms  
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# La creme de la creme Opportunities

—Managerial—Administrative—Secretarial—Personal Assistants—

All recruitment advertisements on this page are open to both male and female applicants.

## PER Top Jobs for Executive Secretaries

**BRENTFORD £4,000-£4,500**

The Managing Director of this international Company requires a PA/Secretary who is capable of coping with all the usual secretarial duties, and also assisting with conferences and presentations. A mature personality, used to meeting V.I.P.s and organising the office routine. Languages would be an asset but are not essential. Own office. Excellent benefits.

Contact : Mrs. D. Shaef 01-235 9984

**MAYFAIR £3,500**

An Executive Secretary, with legal experience, has the opportunity to join a famous banking group. At first working for the legal department and giving relief service to senior directors, the prospects for promotion are excellent. Unusually good benefits.

Contact : Mrs. D. Shaef 01-235 9984

Late night opening 6.45 pm every Thursday. Telephone Mrs Dorothy Allison (Manager) on 01-235 9984 for an appointment at 4-5 Grosvenor Place, Hyde Park Corner, SW1

## SECRETARY TO SURVEYOR

**c. £3,300 LONDON EC2**

The Equitable Life, the oldest mutual life office, is looking for an experienced Secretary who will provide a full secretarial service for the Surveyor and his department of four in their City offices close to Moorgate and Liverpool Street stations. Good shorthand/typing speeds are essential together with a good telephone manner and the ability to work well using one's initiative. Salary will be negotiable around £3,300 and fringe benefits include an annual bonus, eighteen days' holiday and a non-contributory pension scheme. Please ring or write to Miss Barbara Brookfield, The Equitable Life Assurance Society, Equitable Life House, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. Tel.: Aylesbury 89771.

## PA/SEC TO PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

A busy Property Development Manager, whose job demands extensive travel, needs a competent and reliable PA/SEC to whom he can confidently delegate responsibility.

This is an interesting and demanding position requiring excellent secretarial skills, together with the ability to organise, plus tact, patience and a sense of humour. For the right person, female or male, the salary will be around £3,300 p.a.

Please ring Mr. Michael Cross, Property Dept., Securicor Ltd., 24-30 Gillingham Street, London SW1 on 01-821 0567.

## Secretary/P.A.

for Finance Director of a Public Holding Company at modern air conditioned offices in Victoria Street. Interesting and challenging position with considerable responsibility.

Salary negotiable, above average fringe benefits.

Telephone 01-828 0554, ext. 19

## SECRETARY/PA to Finance Director

of a major contractor in the entertainment industry. Based in NW1 (near Northern Line) this appointment offers an interesting career for someone who is capable of working on their own initiative, handling admin. jobs as well as being an accurate typist with good shorthand. Salary negotiable around £3,000.

Contact Lindsay Jamieson

387 0999

## STURGIS & SON

**PARK LANE**

Surveyors & Estate Agents require efficient Secretary to work with 2 Partners 5.30 p.m. to 9.30 a.m. Audio and shorthand, also experienced Receptionist / Secretary £3,500 per annum, otherwise as above.

Please contact by letter Mrs C. Wordsell, A.R.C.S., Sturgis & Son, Park Lane, 61 Park Lane, W.1.

## BAKER STREET

**£3,100**

Director of large international Company needs experienced Secretary who is capable of coping with all the usual secretarial duties, and also assisting with conferences and presentations. A mature personality, used to meeting V.I.P.s and organising the office routine. Languages would be an asset but are not essential. Own office. Excellent benefits.

LONDON CAREERS 01-794 0202

## CAPABLE SECRETARY

Age 25+, required for small firm of 4 secretaries. Good shorthand and fast-rate typist. This is an attractive, permanent position in a friendly atmosphere.

Salary £4,200 negotiable. 4-5 Grosvenor Place, SW1. Telephone 236 5202

## SECRETARY/P.A. Male/Female

**Male/Female**

Required by Partner in City firm of Chartered Surveyors. Must be well educated and a thoroughly competent person. Salary £3,300 p.a. + bonuses and free BUPA cover.

Please phone 01-236 7994 for further details.

## PARTNERSHIP SECRETARY

We are looking for a pleasant, intelligent Secretary who is capable of coping with all the usual secretarial duties, and also assisting with conferences and presentations. A mature personality, used to meeting V.I.P.s and organising the office routine. Languages would be an asset but are not essential. Own office. Excellent benefits.

Please telephone Rosalind Wade on 483 2283.

## DULWICH

Partner of professional firm requires top class Secretary. Must have good typing skills and be a fast-rate typist. This is an attractive, permanent position in a friendly atmosphere.

For further details call 633 1755

## SECRETARY TO TOP EXECUTIVE

**Circa £3,500 p.a.**

Standard Life Assurance have an attractive opening for a highly competent Senior Secretary at their modern office block in Gray's Inn Road (5 minutes from Chancery Lane Underground).

Working for our top Executives, you will be involved in a wide range of secretarial work at senior level. You must possess good shorthand/typing speeds, be a good organizer and have a pleasant telephone manner.

Salary will be dependent upon age and experience and benefits include lunchtime vouchers, non-contributory pension scheme and excellent working conditions.

WRITE OR PHONE JOHN HUNT, STANDARD LIFE, HOLBORN HALL, 100 GRAY'S INN ROAD, LONDON, W.C.1. TELEPHONE 01-242 9708.

## SECRETARY TO BOARD DIRECTOR

**c. £3,750**

We are looking for a responsible, confidential SECRETARY with excellent secretarial skills to assist one of our Board Directors. The job is varied and interesting requiring complete involvement in the work. You must be capable of working on your own initiative and be used to dealing with people at all levels. Several years experience in a similar position is essential.

In addition to an attractive salary we offer a substantial bonus, 25 days holiday, free lunch, a company car, and a pension scheme. You will be based at Whitehead House, 100 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA. Please contact Pat Donnelly.

WHITEHEAD & CO. LTD. 100 City Road, London EC1Y 1AA. Tel. 01-696 4455

## BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION Personal Secretary

**up to £3,250 p.a.**

The British Standards Institution in Mayfair require a mature person to act as Second Secretary to its Director General and to deputise in the absence of his Personal Assistant. The job is varied and interesting and would suit a competent secretary with at least three years' secretarial experience at senior level. Applicants must possess good secretarial skills (minimum 110 wpm shorthand and 50 wpm typing) and should be capable of handling a wide range of confidential matters with speed, accuracy, tact and initiative.

Conditions of service include 5 weeks annual holiday, subsidised staff restaurant, L.V.s and an active social club. For an interview, please phone Miss Catherine Doyle on 020 8906 to arrange an interview.

## PERSONAL SECRETARY Bi-Lingual English/French

The Senior European Manager of American Stockbrokers in the City requires a first class Personal Secretary with accurate shorthand and typing.

Experience in banking or stockbroking essential. Age 25 to 30. Salary £3,500 + BUPA and annual bonus.

Please phone Longstaff 01-828 3280.

## PUBLISHERS HIGHBURY

**£3,500+**

Experienced SECRETARY/PA for Managing Director of the Barrie Group comprising Barrie & Jenkins, Robert Nicholson Publications, Business Books. Involves a wide range of activities covering the varied publishing interests of the group. Must be cool, experienced, efficient and personable—probably over 25. Some audio. Usual publishing perks. L.V.s and free travel. SECRETARIES also required for Production Controller and for premium Sales Manager.

Contact Miss David, 01-358 3711

## Fantastic Career Prospects NON-SECRETARIAL

Do you want a challenge—the chance to really stretch yourself? It's all waiting for you as a Counselor with our rapidly expanding International Personnel Organisation. You'll specialise, assisting Client Companies with staff problems, and guiding Job Seekers. Full training, the opportunity to progress into management, a top salary and pension of all total job satisfaction await you. If you are ambitious, quick thinking, with plenty of common sense and initiative to see a job through from start to finish call me now.

Anne Morris 734 0811

DRAKE PERSONNEL

225 Regent Street, W.1

## ADVERTISING P.A.s

If you love the environment, get on with it—enjoy the pace—give me a ring I'll tell you about some really super people to work with.

## CHAIRMAN

needs a Sec. who can keep up with him... he leaves most people breathless! £24,000.

## M.D.

is looking for a Sec./P.A. to take real interest and be responsible to the other Secs. £3,500+.

## YOUNG DYNAMIC ACCOUNT DIRECTOR

needs someone to share the burden—a good Secretary so there's time left to get really involved on his accounts. £3,500.

## WITHOUT SHORTHAND

Director of small friendly Agency needs an Assistant. £3,000.

## POLLY MORGAN

483 0617 Stephens Selection

## Are you an enthusiastic Secretary?

Circle Goldsmith Estate Agents has vacancies at Partner level for hard working Audio Secretaries, one with some shorthand in their busy offices in Mayfair. There is also a City vacancy. Salaries will be negotiable but in excess of £2,200 p.a.

Phone Peter Young 01-491 3305.

## SENIOR SEC/PA

£4,000 + Large Firm Company in the City offers a demanding, but interesting position using initiative and first class secretarial skills at Director level. (Personal Consultant) Phone 734 5501

## CONNECTION

Recruitment Consultants 156 Piccadilly

## Secretary to Director

One of our main board directors requires a Secretary of high calibre and administrative ability. He needs someone to organise appointments; who can arrange entertainment and receptions for clients with diplomacy, whilst he is away.

As the applicant will work in a busy open-plan office, plenty of energy and self-control is necessary together with a willingness to work beyond normal office hours. Preferred age 27-35 years.

Salary according to age and experience. L.V.s and excellent fringe benefits.

Written applications to Mrs M. J. Latham, Lambert Brothers Shipping Limited, PO Box 431, 53 Eastcheap, London EC3P 3HL. Tel. 263 2009, ext. 3323.

## ITALIAN SPEAKING SECRETARY

**£3,000 + neg. Piccadilly**

An experienced Secretary aged 22+ is needed by two Senior Management Consultants, one of whom travels extensively in Italy, to assist them with travel arrangements, telephone contact with clients and reports and correspondence in both Italian and English.

As well as fluent Italian we are looking for excellent secretarial skills, good organisational ability and the willingness to learn MC 82 automatic typing. Please call Robert Klottrup on 01-404 5701.

CRIPPS SEARS & ASSOCIATES CONSULTANTS

## INVOLVEMENT IN MAYFAIR

Versatile, outgoing young Secretary with sense of humour, required by Partner of a firm of Chartered Accountants. The firm offers a friendly atmosphere and a chance for you to use your own initiative. This interesting post requires first-class secretarial skills with audio, client contact, operating the telex useful but not essential.

Salary £3,500, season ticket loan scheme, BUPA group scheme and L.V.s.

Ring Mrs Winand, 01-734 7755

## INVESTMENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

Responsible position in international stockbroking firm. Opportunity to organise the multi-national information system for the department of 2-3 analysts working in the field of International Bank Analysis. Key duties to include preparation for publication of reports, charts, graphs, etc.

Skills required: Good command of English, one or two foreign languages, fluent types and shorthand. Salary up to £4,000 in line with capability. Ring 01-377 8929 or write to Miss Jeanne Oak, Fox-Pitt Kelton Inc., 3-13 Wilton St., London, E.C.2.

## GET ON WITH NOW!

MC 32 SUPERVISOR to £3,750 + 27-4, to supervise 5 girls. Word processing experience essential. Logic experience desirable but not essential. Ops. also urgently needed.

P.A. TO CHAIRMAN £2,750. Needed immediately. Over 30, must have confident manner, for large Co. near Aldwych, W.C.2.

For further details call 437 4187/7489. LEGAL EXECUTIVE & SECRETARIAL AGENCY.

## Director-General's Office

Demanding job for Secretary with audio skills and ability to meet high-ranking people. Must be educated to A-level standards. The person appointed will report to the Director-General's Personal Assistant and must be willing to work flexible hours.

An excellent salary is offered, plus generous lunchtime arrangements.

Institute of Directors PLEASE SEND A BRIEF LETTER AND CURRICULUM VITAE TO THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS, 10 BELGRAVE SQUARE, SW1.

## Advertising Agency

Exciting opportunity for an experienced Secretary to work in an advertising agency. Varied and interesting work. £2,500 + 27-4, to supervise 5 girls. Word processing experience essential. Logic experience desirable but not essential. Ops. also urgently needed.

P.A. TO CHAIRMAN £2,750. Needed immediately. Over 30, must have confident manner, for large Co. near Aldwych, W.C.2.

For further details call 437 4187/7489. LEGAL EXECUTIVE & SECRETARIAL AGENCY.

AMERICAN MEDICAL (U.K.) LTD SECRETARY/PA Required for the Chairman of this Private Hospital Group in W.1. Applicants should be aged between 25-40, have first class secretarial skills and a desire for job involvement, particularly with the considerable PFI aspects of the work. Commensurate salary £3,500. L.V.s and pension. Ring Miss Howell, 487 5713/5237.

Managing Director of International London Agency needs a first class Secretary/P.A. to assist him in all aspects of agency life. Advertising experience not essential. £3,500

'THAT AGENCY' 185 Kensington High St., W.8. open 9.15-7 p.m. Thursday

Every day is different... In the Personnel Dept. of a large City Co. interesting and varied work. A first class Sec. looking for involvement. £3,500 + 27-4, to supervise 5 girls. Word processing experience essential. Logic experience desirable but not essential. Ops. also urgently needed.

In the City office of U.S. Bankers as General Asst. Typing, shorthand and previous record in a similar position. £3,500 + 27-4, to supervise 5 girls. Word processing experience essential. Logic experience desirable but not essential. Ops. also urgently needed.

Angela Mortimer Ltd. Recruitment Consultants 156 Piccadilly

## MUSIC WORLD

Young experienced International Director of well known Company requires a Secretary to assist him with his international work. First class, experienced plus 1 language for overseas clients. Confidential, etc.

## ADVERTISING

The Chairman of a well known Ad Agency needs a Secretary to assist him with his international work. First class, experienced plus 1 language for overseas clients. Confidential, etc.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

Successful £3,000 Company in W.1 are looking for a young P.A. Sec. to assist with international work. First class, experienced plus 1 language for overseas clients. Confidential, etc.

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The Chairman of a well known Ad Agency needs a Secretary to assist him with his international work. First class, experienced plus 1 language for overseas clients. Confidential, etc.

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## Executive Secretary

British Gypsum Limited, a leading manufacturer of building materials, require an Executive Secretary for the Financial Director at their Head Office near Regent's Park.

The successful candidate, male or female, will be aged 25-45 with a mature outlook, good secretarial skills and plenty of initiative. A sense of humour coupled with the ability to cope under pressure are necessary qualifications for this demanding but interesting position.

The company offers an excellent salary, subsidised restaurant, four weeks' holiday and a non-contributory pension scheme. Modern offices are situated near Baker Street and Regent's Park Underground Stations.

Please apply with full details to: Mrs Siddiqui, British Gypsum Limited, Furguson House, 15-17 Marylebone Road, London W.1. Telephone 01-468 1282.

## Metropolitan Regional Examinations Board Secretary/Personal Assistant

**(£2,787-£3,276)**

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The work is varied and interesting, 24 days' holiday, Luncheon vouchers, 35-hour week. Salary point fixed in light of experience.

Application forms and further details should be requested by postcard from the undersigned.

D. H. BOARD, M.A., Secretary to the Board, Metropolitan Regional Examinations Board, Lyon House, 104 Wandsworth High Street, London SW9 4LF (or telephone 01-772 2144, Mrs. Logorelli)

## ABBOTT ASSOCIATES MIDDLE EAST

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## OVERSEAS

Washington prepares the ground for next week's summit talks in London

## President Carter wants to find out if Europe takes him seriously and knows its own mind

From James Reston

Washington, April 27

Mr Jimmy Carter is going to Europe next week for the first time as President, and he is preparing the way carefully by recognition of the fact that Europe usually takes a highly sceptical view of new American presidents.

Accordingly, he has given a personal interview to the correspondents of *The Times*, of London, *Le Monde*, *Die Welt*, and *Le Starn*. On Monday he will be interviewed at the White House by David Dimbleby of the BBC and reporters from the other big West European television organizations. This interview will be shown on the Eurovision network the night before he arrives in London for the economic summit meeting at No 10 Downing Street.

Mr Jody Powell, the White House press secretary, arranges these things and he is very good at it. If anyone criticizes his skipper, he is excessively protective and defensive, but when it comes to putting his man on television for the energy programme or the forthcoming visit to Europe, he lines up the network, and the President cooperates.

There was a bit of a controversy within the Administration about how the President should approach his first official visit abroad. Some of his aides thought that his modesty was the best policy and that he should slip in quietly and take his place with

the European and Japanese leaders, without dominating the conference before it began, but the propaganda view prevailed.

Even so, the timing of his visit to Europe is good. His programme has had a better press in West Europe than in the United States. In international terms, it has been noted that America is the biggest gas-guzzler in the world, taking more than 50 per cent of the supply for the industrial nations and therefore Mr Carter's effort to reduce consumption, even if it does not get all the way through Congress, will leave more energy for West Europe, Japan and developing nations.

Moreover, he is taking a philosophy to the summit. Just as he is saying that the American people must change their ways, he is saying that the free nations of Europe, along with Japan, must also change their ways and find common policies to deal with their common problems. Can they work together for a new order between the industrial and developing nations in the world? This is what Mr Carter will be asking.

It will be interesting to see how the leaders of West Europe and Japan react to him personally and to his idealistic yearnings. By the end of the year he is going to have to deal with the Soviet Union about arms control and human rights. He will probably have to go to Moscow and try to find some compromise between the Arabs and the Israelis.

He is confronted with powerful forces for larger military budgets and more protectionist trade policies at home, and he will be trying to find out in his first summit meeting in London whether there is any possibility of finding some compromise.

This London summit conference next week is not like Roosevelt's London economic conference in the early 1930s, which was a disaster, but more like the early days of the Marshall Plan, or European Recovery Programme, after the Second World War. When Washington suggested radical new programmes, Europe hesitated, but finally agreed to take Washington seriously.

As I understand it, Mr Carter is going to Europe to talk things over before he goes into the Soviet and Middle East problems. He will find out whether there is something left that is important, and try to get the industrial powers together.

There is obviously a feeling here that the democratic governments of the world are in trouble, that the coalition governments of West Europe do not know where they are going to be a year or two from now, and that the same is true of Japan; also, that all these governments are vaguely confused by Mr Carter and his new Administration in Washington. Perhaps this is why Mr Powell persuaded the President to be interviewed by the leading papers of West Europe and the European television network.

Mr Carter, first of all, wants people to pay attention to him when he goes to Moscow, but more important, he thinks he has something to say and something he wants to find out.

He really believes in what has been called the trilateral system of America, Europe and Japan and the London conference will be his first overseas test of this belief. After that, he will have to deal with the Middle East, and the struggle with the Soviet Union over the control of strategic arms, but he is going to London to test whether he is taken seriously and whether the other free countries will find ways to get together.

Mr Carter is probably as concerned about Europe as it is about him. The worst kind of diplomats are missionaries, Harold Nicolson observed. The best kind are reasonable and human sceptics. Thus it is not surprising that he has been the main formative influence in diplomatic theory, but common sense.

Europe is obviously worried about Mr Carter because it thinks he is a missionary and will probably resent his propagandistic entrance into London, but he is going there with a clear intention of trying to find out what Europe has to say for itself. —New York Times News Service.

Footnote: Mr Carter's Washington interview will be published in *Europa*, with *The Times*, next Tuesday.

## In brief

## Murdoch defence of popular press

New York, April 27.—Mr Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper proprietor, made a strong defence of "sensationalism" in the press in a speech in San Francisco yesterday. He accused many American papers of being dull and out of touch with their readers and said: "Too many newspapers of the world over seem more preoccupied with covering the machinery of government rather than the lives of the governed," he said. "Too often the medium is the message."

## Film team freed

Nairobi, April 27.—Miss Anne-Marie Gronberg, Finnish television photographer, and Mr Ileshamah Aziz, a Nairobi-based photographer, have been allowed to return to Kenya after being arrested by Tanzanian police while filming at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro, 130 miles from here.

## Electric chair verdict

Mobile, Alabama, April 27.—Wayne Ritter and John Evans, both self-confessed murderers, were sentenced, as they requested, to die in the electric chair before sunrise on July 25. But their case will be reviewed by the Alabama Supreme Court.

## Mrs Sakharov's plea

Moscow, April 27.—Mrs Yelena Sakharov, wife of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet human rights campaigner, has applied for permission to make a second visit to Italy for an eye operation. She went there for an operation in 1975.

## Women riot police

Tokyo, April 27.—The Japanese police have organized a special riot squad of 200 women to control demonstrations by women, old people and those physically handicapped.

## Israeli defence critic

Jerusalem, April 27.—Israel's Army, Defence Ministry and Finance Ministry were criticized in a report by the State Comptroller for waste, bad planning and other shortcomings.

## Airlift completed

Addis Ababa, April 27.—A group of 154 Americans flew to Addis today, virtually completing the exodus of 300 United States citizens ordered out of Ethiopia.

## Syrian leader gives Israel warning not to acquire nuclear arms

From Robert Fisk

Damascus, April 27

President Assad of Syria today delivered a carefully optimistic but ruthless appraisal of the prospects for peace in the Middle East.

He said the Arab states would not hesitate to resort to war if a Geneva conference failed to recover occupied Arab territory and if there was no peace agreement with Israel. Syria would acquire nuclear arms if Israel would be the worse off for it.

"We do not exclude the possibility that Israel possesses such weapons," he said. "If Israel does have nuclear weapons then we will possess them too, but possession of nuclear arms by Israel would be the worst evil for her."

"One can very easily realize that when both sides possess such arms Israel would not be able to withstand a large number of bombs. It is in Israel's interest not to possess such arms, if it has them, it should sell them."

The President's long and sobering press conference, given at the request of British journalists accompanying Dr David Owen, the foreign Secretary, on his Middle East tour, also provided him with an opportunity for commenting on his relations with the Soviet Union and on his apparently high regard for President Carter.

## Australia plans inquiry into CIA activities

Canberra, April 27.—Mr Fraser, the Australian Prime Minister told Parliament today that his Government would investigate allegations that the United States Central Intelligence Agency had been involved in undercover activities in Australia.

He made the announcement after reports of allegations at the Los Angeles trial of Christopher Boyce, aged 25, a student and former CIA code clerk, on espionage charges had been published by Australian newspapers.

Mr Boyce testified yesterday that his recruitment to CIA involved him in a web of blackmail and supplying documents to the Soviet Union. —Reuters.

## Dismissals over sale of US explosives to Libya

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, April 27

Two officials at the Central Intelligence Agency have been dismissed for allegedly helping a former colleague to sell explosives to the Libyan Government. Admiral Stansfield Turner, the CIA director, took this unusual step after the *Washington Post* first published the allegations two weeks ago.

Mr Edwin Wilson, the former CIA officer, who runs a consulting firm in Washington, is alleged to have agreed to supply the Libyans with 500,000 detonators of a kind that could be set to go off after an interval of up to a year. There is a further allegation that he smuggled some of them out of the country in medicine bottles. He has denied the allegations.

The two other CIA officers, who are said to have helped him, did nothing illegal. Their names have not been disclosed. Admiral Turner said that dismissing them was the most difficult thing he had done in 31 years of service.

The two men's role in the alleged transaction is reported to have been to introduce Mr Wilson to firms making the detonators, thus leading them to believe that he was working for the CIA.

The implication is that American equipment could find its way into the hands of various terrorist organizations, supported by the Libyan Government, notably some Palestinian groups and perhaps the IRA.

Admiral Turner spent part of this morning testifying to Congress on the agency's budget.

## Ceremony at St Paul's for Dr Nkrumah

By Kenneth Mackenzie

The first ceremonies in the final obsequies for Dr Kwame Nkrumah, the first President of Ghana, who died five years ago yesterday, were held in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral, London, yesterday.

About 500 people, including representatives of the Queen and the British Government, heard Canon John Collins pay tribute to "my friend" who had paid such a big part in the peaceful transfer of power from the British Government to an independent Ghana.

He mentioned the "corruption of power that came later, but spoke of Nkrumah's great vision of a united free Africa which set in motion the creation of the Organization of African Unity.

President Nkrumah was overthrown by a military coup in 1966. The ceremonies yesterday were held after conciliatory moves by the present Ghana regime, under General Ignatius Acheampong. The final rites will be celebrated at Nkrumah's birthplace, Nkroful, in the Eastern Region of Ghana, where his remains are buried, later this year.

## Prayer service held for Chile prisoners

By Edward Mortimer

Mr Jack Jones, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, read the lesson at a luncheon service of prayer yesterday for "Chilean Secret Prisoners" at All Souls, Langham Place.

The Right Rev Gerald Mahon, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, said in an address that more than 2,500 names were known of people who had disappeared in Chile since the military coup of 1973 and whose relatives had been unable to trace them. According to Amnesty International and the Chile Committee for Human Rights, which organized the service, for at least 500 of these cases there are legal documents attesting to their detention.

The agreement was read by Dr Edgardo Enriquez, a former Chilean Education Minister, one of whose sons is on the list of those who have disappeared. Prayers were said by the Rev Paul Oestreicher, chairman of Amnesty International's British section, the Rev Brian Duckworth, assistant general secretary of the British Council of Churches, and Mr Walter Martin, general secretary of the Friends' Service Council.

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN TEACHING HOSPITAL  
P.M.B. 1111,  
BENIN CITYTENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF  
HOSPITAL LINEN—  
1977/78

Tenders are invited from reputable firms and companies for the supply of Hospital Linen to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital during the 1977/78 financial year.

The Tender schedules which are issued in duplicate are obtainable from the Director of Administration, University of Benin Teaching Hospital, P.M.B. 1111, Benin City OR from the U.B.T.I. London Representative, 8 Hallam Street, London W1M 5LF, on the payment of N50.00 (fifty Naira). Payment should be by money order, certified cheque or cash to the Chief Accountant of the hospital, or to the London Representative.

Completed and signed tender forms should be returned with a copy of the receipt of payment of deposit to the Director of Administration or the London Representative, in sealed envelope marked "CONFIDENTIAL—TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF HOSPITAL LINEN" not later than the 31st May, 1977.

The University of Benin Teaching Hospital is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

Tenders should also forward along with their tenders, samples of the various types of linen for which they are tendering.

N.B. N50.00=244.00 sterling.

Ahaji L.B. Giwa

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

## DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR

## REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

## Ministry for Industry and Energy

## SONATRACH

## INTERNATIONAL

## INVITATION TO TENDER

International tenders are invited for the supervision and quality control of work in the fields of design, supplies and construction, commissioning and inspection of machinery and equipment during production in connection with the construction of a natural gas liquefaction plant at Bethoua, Arzew, Algeria to comprise:

Nine units for the liquefaction of natural gas and extraction of butane and propane, storage, transfer and unloading facilities for LNG, propane and butane and a loading terminal at Arzew.

Tender specifications may be obtained from Project GNL 3—S.P. 06 Bethoua (Arzew) Algeria—Téléx No. 20238 between 5.4.1977 and 30.4.1977.

Tenders should be sent in two envelopes marked "Confidential. Ne pas ouvrir".

Monsieur le Vice-Président

ENGINEERING ET DEVELOPEMENT

10, Rue du Sahara—Hydra—Algiers (Algeria)

to reach the above address by not later than 5 p.m. on 15.5.1977.

Bidders shall be bound by their tenders for a period of 90 days.

## DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR

## REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

## Ministry for Industry and Energy

## SONATRACH

## INTERNATIONAL

## Invitation to Tender

International tenders are invited for the execution of work and training in the fields of cost control, planning, auditing and financial control connected with the construction of a natural gas liquefaction plant at Bethoua (Algeria).

Interested companies may obtain tender specifications between 5.4.1977 and 30.4.1977 from Project GNL 3 BP.06

Telephone: 376-455-555

Téléx: SONALIO 20238

Tenders should be submitted on the forms specified in the tender documents and should be sent in two sealed envelopes clearly marked "CONFIDENTIEL, NE PAS OUVRIR" and addressed to:

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Engineering et Développement

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Hydra, Algiers, Algeria.

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Bidders shall be bound by their tenders for a period of 90 days from the date of submission.

## LEGAL NOTICES

No. 00 3990 of 1976

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948 in the

NOTICE is hereby given that a

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION

has been filed with the Registrar

of Companies at the Companies

Registrar's Office, London EC2M 2ND

on the 13th day of April, 1977.

The proposed name of the company is

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## COMPANY MEETING

## NOTICES

COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE

DE SUZ

Société Anonyme, enregistrée en

France, au capital de

FFr. 84.518.000

1, rue d'Astorg, 75006 Paris

May 1977

GENERAL MEETING OF

SHAREHOLDERS

May 1977

Notice is hereby given that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL

MEETING of shareholders of Com-

pagne Financière de Suz will be

held at the Grand Auditorium of

Palais des Congrès, Centre Inter-

national de Paris, 2, place de la

Porte Maillot, 75016 Paris, on

Tuesday, May 23, 1977.

(1) The ANNUAL GENERAL

MEETING will be held at 2.30 p.m.

for the following purposes:

Report of the Directors

Report of the Auditors

Accounts for financial year 1976

Dividend for 1976

Resolution No. 1 and fix the

dividend

(2) At the conclusion of the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be

held at 3.30 p.m. for the

purpose of electing the Directors

for the financial year 1977

to replace the Directors who

retire in accordance with the

Articles of Association. The

meeting will be held at 3.30 p.m.

on Tuesday, May 23, 1977.

Shareholders are invited to

attend the meeting and to vote



HOME NEWS

# TUC willing to talk about renewal of social contract

By Our Labour Editor

The General Council of the TUC yesterday confirmed its willingness to talk with the Government about a renewal of the social contract when the voluntary pact expires in three months.

Union leaders formally approved a minute of their economic committee report on negotiations with the Cabinet, which so far have been held only at an informal level. A timetable for the main negotiations on what should come after phase two have yet to emerge, but the principle that they will talk has been established.

The only criticism on pay policy voiced at yesterday's council meeting came from Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs. He objected to clause 17 of the Price Commission Bill, which had its second reading in the House last night, on the ground that it could give an incoming Tory government power to invoke a pay restraint.

The offending clause relieves employers of the legal responsibility of honouring an employee's contract if it gives

him an increase higher than the norm agreed between the TUC and the Government. It has been carried on from previous legislation on prices.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said: "The Government have made it crystal clear that the whole question of pay is with the TUC and that the Bill can only be read in that context. The Bill in no way preempts the discussions which are going to take place with the Government on what should follow the present pay round."

"There has never been any question of the TUC's giving support to every clause in the Bill, because the general council still want to see more action in the prices field by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection and the Chancellor."

There was strong criticism of the Government's "inadequate" record on price control at the general council meeting, led by Mr Jack Jones.

But Mr Murray added: "It would be quite wrong for anyone to infer from this that the TUC would support MPs voting against the Bill."

Parliamentary report, page 16

# Oil spree warning by CBI chief

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Britain needs a long term industrial strategy and should not pin her hopes on a North Sea oil "bonanza", Lord Watkinson, president of the Confederation of British Industry, said at a Parliamentary Press Gallery luncheon yesterday.

It would be disastrous for the economy if, at the end of a five-year period of riches derived from oil the country ended up broke, he said.

"If we do not have such a strategy, our country is done and finished." It was necessary to work out an agreement on strategy between the Government, the unions and the CBI in such bodies as the National Economic Development Council. No one should underestimate the work or significance of the NEDC, he said.

Government economic decisions should be based on hard

facts coming up from industry, not from the Treasury computer.

The Government should avoid "vexatious squalls from industry, such as the one that blew up over the sudden imposition of higher national insurance contributions without previous consultation. It should know what was a "vexatious squall" with industry before taking action.

There must be more continuity of industrial policy. "A developed NEDC industrial strategy could provide safeguards against pulling things to pieces every year or so."

In that way industry could produce what Britain desperately needed: higher output and lower inflation; more profits and less underused plant; and, above all, more money for those who could earn it and a much greater concentration on the economy's productive aspects.

Politicians should not make

# Civil Service union may reject phase 3

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Reporter

Continued pay restraint is expected to be rejected next week by the Civil and Public Services Association, the biggest Civil Service union, representing nearly 250,000 of the lowest-paid government employees.

Mr Kenneth Thomas, the general secretary, said yesterday that the association's executive was not attracted by arguments for a phase three income policy. Delegates to its conference would be urged to oppose restraint.

He said most of his members earn less than the national average wage. "As a lower-paid union we need to uper what are regarded as traditional differentials."

The association is likely to be one of the first big votes against the social contract. Mr Thomas said it would not be enthusiastic about productivity bargaining.

The Chancellor had given tax concessions worth up to £10 a week, he said. "Offer our members £10 a week and they would be much more interested in the social contract."



Rubbish left outside the refuse department in Richmond, London, in protest at a nine week strike by dustmen, which ends today.

# Forecast of 1 1/2p in £ price rise

By Hugh Clayton

British food prices will rise by 1 1/2p in the pound in the next year under European Economic Community rules, Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday.

The butter subsidy awarded to Britain from Community funds might cut prices in Britain by as much as 8p a lb at first.

"I have heard it said that the reduction might end in June," he told reporters in London. "Who is to say? The next big leap in prices will come in September."

The attempt by the EEC Commission to impose a tax on oils used in margarine had been blocked, Mr Silkin said. But his campaign to ban the use of such words as "cream" and "butter" in products that did not contain them would continue.

Mr Silkin said he wanted long-term improvements in EEC farm policy. "We want to look not only at the icing—the butter subsidy—but also at the cake."

The EEC farm price agreement was condemned yesterday by Sir Henry Plumb, president of the National Farmers' Union. The Government had not done enough to raise returns to farmers or to ease the agony of the pig industry, he said. "Farmers face the future with the utmost foreboding."

# National agent to run Newham, NE party

By Michael Hatfield

Political Reporter

Labour's national executive moved swiftly yesterday to avoid the possibility of further litigation over the constituency of Newham, North-east, where Mr Prentice is the Labour MP, by convening an annual meeting of the local Labour party, possibly in June.

The scheduled annual meeting in February was stopped when some moderates in the constituency obtained a temporary injunction. Since then there has been the judgment, given by Mr Justice Kerr on April 7, that the annual meeting had been improperly convened and that the election of delegates contained irregularities.

National executive committee members yesterday suspended the local party's general committee, executive committee and officers, and authorized Mr Reginald Underhill, the national agent, to conduct the day-to-day affairs of the constituency party. That will include matters relating to the local government elections and convening the annual meeting.

Although Mr Prentice, who has announced that he will stand as a Democratic Labour

candidate at the next general election, criticized those who had sought the injunction, national party officers thought there might have been further legal action.

Wards, union branches and organizations will be advised when the annual meeting is to be, and it is possible, although not thought likely, that their selection of delegates might tip the balance in favour of the moderates.

Even if so, few Labour supporters believe Mr Prentice would be reinstated, as not all the moderates in the party these days support the actions he has taken. It would be a supreme irony if the moderates did gain control and in the next general election chose a candidate who might find Mr Prentice as his opponent.

Also yesterday, the national executive endorsed a decision of its organization committee that the Lambeth, Vauxhall, constituency party was acting unconstitutionally by asking all candidates for the seat to sign a declaration that they accepted the local party's right of recall at any time if they became the Labour MP.

Several candidates agreed to sign, but party officials denied that they had a better chance of being short-listed for nomination because they had agreed to the conditions.

# Plans ready to cope with Ulster strike

From Christopher Walker

Belfast

After a study of the handling of the last "loyalist" strike in Northern Ireland in 1974, the Government has drawn up a secret list of contingency plans to cope with the new protest action threatened by Protestant extremists from early next week.

Consultations have taken place between Mr Mason, the Secretary of State, the Prime Minister and other senior members of the Cabinet, including Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence.

Although details of the discussions are being kept private, government sources in Belfast have indicated that, in direct contrast with 1974, both the Army and the police will take swift action against any threats to public order in the streets.

Among the early moves that it is understood the Government is planning will be the sending of extra troops by air to Northern Ireland. There is a conviction in official circles that the strikers must be given an early indication of the extent of the Government's resolve.

There are about three thousand fewer troops serving in the province than three years ago, although a Spearhead Battalion is on permanent standby in Britain to provide an immediate backup of 500 men to the existing total of 14,000.

There is still doubt about the ability of soldiers or the other two Services to handle the technical difficulties of the electricity supply, which provided the key to the quick success of the loyalists in 1974.

Even if the Government could count on the support of the middle management inside Ulster's four power stations, some observers think that with

army back-up they would be unable to maintain more than half the supply.

It is this element in the contingency planning that is being surrounded with the greatest secrecy, with no concession being made about the extent or extent of the disruption planned by the umbrella grouping, the United Ulster Action Council.

More details of their protest will be contained in an advertisement due to be published in a Belfast newspaper tomorrow morning. Mr Ernest Reid, one of the leaders, said yesterday that there would be no compromise in their twin demands for immediate implementation of the convention report and a new drive against the IRA.

During the day, as shops reported more panic buying of foodstuffs and emergency cooking equipment, the build-up of moderate opinion against the threatened action continued at a rate that has heartened government officials.

Much of the criticism of the proposed strike has come from within the Official Unionist Party. United Ulster Unionist Coalition now exists in little but name. The Official Unionists urged postponement of any protest until after the local government elections scheduled for May 18.

Several industrial groups, which are afraid of the consequences that a strike might have for Ulster's ailing economy voiced concern. The non-sectarian Alliance Party placed an advertisement in a Belfast newspaper, challenging the strikers to answer several critical questions.

Mr Mason spoke about the threatened disruption while visiting the Harland and Wolff shipyard in east Belfast. He said: "I shall be quite firm from the outset."

# Three faces of Ulster factionalism

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Army and Government in Northern Ireland have become a third faction alongside the Roman Catholics and Protestants a leading Northern Ireland churchman said in London yesterday.

Dr E. J. Weir, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, said the result was bitterness and frustration, leading to threats of strikes and civil disobedience.

Northern Ireland gave the appearance of a kind of colonialism, Dr Weir told the assembly of the British Council of Churches. Decisions were made over the heads of elected representatives of the people, and often against their wishes.

"The intentions are honourable, but the consequences are no less dangerous for all that," he declared.

British policy appeared to apply double standards, devolution being urged for Scotland and Wales and denied in Northern Ireland, and power-sharing being urged on Northern Ireland while politicians at Westminster resisted the idea of coalition for themselves.

Dr Weir added that if Northern Ireland was not a nation in the sense that England, Scotland, and Wales were nations, a sense of nationhood was being forged out of the present experience. A claim for independence was one of the contingencies being considered by some leaders of the majority there.

# Mr Paisley faces threat of expulsion

By Our Political Correspondent

If the Rev Ian Paisley, the United Ulster Unionist MP for Antrim, North, continues to exert part in the organization of the general strike planned by "loyalists" to bring Northern Ireland to a standstill on Monday he is likely to be expelled from the United Ulster Unionist group at Westminster.

That was made clear yesterday by Mr James Moynihan, the leader of the group, who said his advice to members was not to enter into illegal activities, if that was what was intended by those organizing the strike. He thought Mr Paisley would recognize that he could expect to be expelled from the group if he continued in the organizing committee and the strike work place.

Mr Enoch Powell, MP for Down, South, was even more forthright. "I can only regard Dr Paisley's recent speeches and actions as irresponsible, unconstitutional and calculated to inflict maximum damage on the peace and stability of the Union," he said.

"I find it hard to see how in these circumstances the Ulster Unionist parliamentary party could continue to maintain its existing cohesion with Dr Paisley."

Mr Moynihan told a Commons press conference that he favoured constitutional measures to persuade the Government to adopt a security and restore a form of regional government.

# Pilots' union accused in rig dispute

From Ronald Faux

Aberdeen

Mr Alan Bristow, chairman of Bristow Helicopters, the company disrupted by a strike of half its Aberdeen-based pilots, yesterday blamed the British Air Line Pilots' Association (BALPA) for the dispute.

It had asked other unions to support its financial policies, he said. Its wrecking tactics were an attempt to dictate terms to the company by seizing on the dispute over the dismissal of Captain Peter Royson.

Mr Bristow said BALPA sought to control all pilots flying to and from the North Sea oil and gas industry to ransom. The "blacklisting" of supply ships in the North Sea is not expected to be effective for some days. It is understood the National Union of Seamen, which is supporting the striking pilots, has members on 70 supply boats operating between Dundee and Shetland.

# Youth unemployment to be discussed at summit

By Diana Geddes

Youth unemployment will be one of the main issues discussed by world leaders when they meet at 10 Downing Street on May 7 and 8 for their summit conference, the Prime Minister told a British Youth Council delegation yesterday.

Mr Callaghan said he was greatly concerned about the level of youth unemployment in Britain, which he felt would present difficulties for several years.

The success of the Government's industrial strategy would do much to mop up the cyclical aspect of youth unemployment, but the severe underlying structural difficulty would remain, and that would need to be tackled by far-reaching government measures, he said.

He had continually emphasized the importance of youth unemployment to his colleagues abroad, and he hoped the Downing Street summit conference would provide some international assessment of the

matter. He would also be seeking to persuade the Council of Ministers of the EEC of the need for a common European policy backed up with adequate resources.

Mr Callaghan, with Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, and Mr Oakes, Minister of Education and Science, spent more than an hour with representatives of a wide variety of youth organizations that belong to the British Youth Council, discussing recommendations contained in a council working party report on youth unemployment.

It calls for a fully integrated system to serve all the leavers with occupational guidance, job-placement and a variety of opportunities for further education, training and employment. It also calls for a guarantee of at least some type of activity for young people on leaving school, together with a minimum maintenance grant.

# Doctors may reject child-health proposals

From John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

Recommendations made by the Court committee, which found that health care provided for children is inadequate, may be rejected by family doctors.

Dr Arnold Elliott, chairman of a working party set up to study the report by the General Medical Services Committee, which represents all general practitioners, said at Eastbourne yesterday that the committee did not accept recommendations to appoint general practitioner paediatricians and child health visitors, or a suggestion for compulsory medical examinations.

Speaking at the congress of the Royal Society of Health, he welcomed some of the committee's suggestions, such as better education for GPs in paediatrics, but said that in general its proposals cut across family medicine as it was practised in Britain.

The report of his working party would be debated by the profession in July, and he would be surprised if it did not become British Medical Association policy. The cost of implementing the Court proposals would be fantastic.

Professor S. D. M. Court said he was not discouraged by the criticism of his committee's report. There were serious deficiencies in the service, a

loss of 18,000 children at birth or in the first year was unacceptable.

One child in 50 was born with a serious malformation. Studies indicated that there were likely to be a million children with significant psychiatric disorders which they might have for years.

Professor Neville Butler, Professor of Child Health at Bristol University, said many countries achieved better results in child-care than Britain did, even though some had fewer resources. We had a high illegitimacy rate and there were five thousand pregnancies a year among girls under 15, a third of which resulted in births.

# Alliance Building Society

announces that from 1st May 1977 the rate of interest paid on existing Share and Deposit Accounts will be reduced by 0.8% p.a. and the following interest rates will apply to new personal investment accounts:-

Net per annum	Gross equivalent yield at 35% income tax rate
<b>7.00%</b> ORDINARY SHARES	<b>10.77%</b>
MoneyReady; Junior and 1-month notice MoneyMonthly Accounts	
<b>7.25%</b> TERM SHARES	<b>11.15%</b>
New Issue from 1st May 1977	
<b>7.50%</b> 1-year High Income Term Share and MoneyMonthly Accounts	<b>11.54%</b>
<b>8.00%</b> 2-year High Income Term Share and MoneyMonthly Accounts	<b>12.31%</b>
<b>8.25%</b> 5-year High Income Term Share and MoneyMonthly Accounts	<b>12.69%</b>
<b>6.75%</b> REGULAR SAVINGS	<b>10.38%</b>
MoneyBuilder Savings Accounts	
<b>7.00%</b> DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	<b>10.77%</b>
Alliance Invest & Invest Bonus Plan Share Accounts	

The rate of interest on all other Share and Deposit Accounts, including all previous issues of Term Shares, will be reduced by 0.8% p.a. and investments by Limited Companies and other bodies by 0.75% p.a. from 1st May 1977. S.A.Y.E. Accounts are not affected by these reductions.

**ALLIANCE BUILDING SOCIETY**

Head Office: Alliance House, Hove Park, Hove, East Sussex BN1 2AZ.

# Why Mr Hetherington resigned from board

Continued from page 1

time held a power of attorney for Mr Stevens, reported the outcome of that meeting with Mr Stevens to Sir Max by telephone. At the end of the conversation he understood that Sir Max would arrange to see Mr Stevens the next day. After his meeting with Sir Max Mr Stevens returned to the office and carried on his job as chief executive and deputy chairman.

In view of the situation Mr Hetherington felt that he wished to resign from the Beaverbrook board, which he did last Friday. Before his resignation he had expressed some personal reservations about the proposed deal with Associated Newspapers, on which he had been working for some time.

Newspaper merger: An official announcement of the merger between the Evening Standard and the Evening News is expected today after management representatives of the two newspaper groups involved have met the general secretaries of the printing and journalists' unions (a Staff Reporter writes).

Mr Vere Harmsworth, chairman of Associated Newspapers, and Mr Stevens are expected to tell heads of the unions this afternoon of the merger. Later Mr Harmsworth is due to brief officials of the union branches at the Evening News and the Beaverbrook management will see the heads of departments

and officials of the union branches at the Evening Standard.

Tomorrow Mr Harmsworth and Mr Stevens are to address a joint meeting of the editorial staffs of both papers.

There is strong resistance from the staffs about the merger. Journalists on the Evening News stopped work yesterday morning and held a mandatory union meeting all day. They said they would resume work only if the management agreed that there would be no compulsory redundancies.

The newspaper appeared but with more agency reports than usual. There was no trouble at the Standard.

Workers' protest: Leaflets were prepared by printing workers yesterday entitled *Murder of a Newspaper—Which One?* The leaflet invites the public to ask the Government for the planned merger to be submitted to the Monopolies Commission.

"Employees, many with long and loyal service to their employers, have not been consulted," the leaflet says.

"Once again, a few people will decide what you can or cannot read and in the process make thousands of workers unemployed. We say they should not be allowed to take such a decision without you—the people of London, the public—having the opportunity of expressing a point of view."

# Press increasingly hostile to Labour, MP says

By Our Political Staff

As more newspapers go out of existence those remaining become increasingly hostile to the Labour Party, Mr Norman Atkinson, MP for Haringey, Tottenham, and treasurer of the party, said in a political broadcast on BBC Radio 4 last night.

It always seems to me a shocking state of affairs when so much of the British press decide, incidentally without any consultation whatsoever, that their readers are not interested in the socialist case, so they do not bother to print any socialist news.

Labour wanted to pursue objectives different from the Conservatives. "We want to devolve power in industry and behave like true democrats. We want to manufacture things to satisfy people's needs rather than the money market."

"We want to foster better relationships with countries overseas."

To vote Labour once did not guarantee that all those things could be done. "Our job is to persuade you to support Labour consistently at both local and parliamentary elections and a distinct socialist pattern begins to emerge," he said.

Mr Atkinson argued that it would not be possible to end unemployment, stop continuous price inflation, and provide more money for the health service, education, pensions and housing unless the economy was planned.

# Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS shown as solid lines. Symbols are not indicating speed.

**Today**

Sun rises: 5.39 am. Sun sets: 8.19 pm.  
Moon sets: 3.5 am. Moon rises: 2.7 pm.  
Full moon: May 3.

Lighting up: 6.49 pm to 5.7 am.

High water: London Bridge, 9.20 am, 5.8m (19.0ft); 9.43 pm, 5.7m, 5.7ft. Avonmouth, 2.15 am, 10.1m (33.2ft); 3.37 pm, 10.2m, 33ft.

Dover, 7.9 am, 5.2m (17.1ft); 7.42 pm, 5.3m, 17.5ft. Hull, 1.55 am, 5.5m (18.1ft); 2.7 pm, 5.8m, 18.9 ft. Liverpool, 7.4 am, 7.4m (24.4ft); 7.53 pm, 7.5m, 24.6ft.

Pressure will remain low over N. Scotland with troughs of low pressure moving E across most parts in a W airstream.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE, Central S England, East Anglia, Midlands: Rather cloudy, rain in places, becoming clearer; wind S, fresh; max temp 11°C (52°F).

Glasgow, Leeds, Highland, Argyll, SW, NW Scotland, N. Ireland: Bright intervals, showers, occasionally heavy and prolonged, thunder, snow on some hills; wind W, moderate or fresh; max temp 9°C (48°F).

NE Scotland, Orkney: Bright intervals, showers, occasionally heavy, thunder, snow on some hills; wind S or SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 9°C (48°F).

Shetland: Bright intervals, showers, occasionally heavy, thunder, snow on some hills; wind SE, moderate or fresh; max temp 8°C (46°F).

Outlook for tomorrow - and

erate or fresh; max temp 12°C (54°F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Rain at first, becoming brighter with showers, probably wintry on hills; max temp 11°C to 12°C (52°F to 54°F).

East, Central N, NE England: Rather cloudy, rain in places, becoming clearer; wind SW, fresh; max temp 11°C to 12°C (52°F to 54°F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray, Fife: Sunny intervals, showers, wind SW, moderate; max temp 11°C (52°F).

Glasgow, Highland, Argyll, SW, NW Scotland, N. Ireland: Bright intervals, showers, occasionally heavy and prolonged, thunder, snow on some hills; wind W, moderate or fresh; max temp 9°C (48°F).

NE Scotland, Orkney: Bright intervals, showers, occasionally heavy, thunder, snow on some hills; wind S or SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 9°C (48°F).

Shetland: Bright intervals, showers, occasionally heavy, thunder, snow on some hills; wind SE, moderate or fresh; max temp 8°C (46°F).

Outlook for tomorrow - and

**Tomorrow**

London: Temp: max, 7 am to 7 pm, 14°C (57°F); min, 7 pm to 7 am, 5°C (43°F). Rainfall: 7 pm, 31 per cent. Rain 24hr to 7 pm, 0.65in. Sun, 24hr to 7 pm, 12.5hr. Bar, mean sea level, 7 pm, 1,015.1 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

**Overseas selling prices**

Canada, 25¢; Australia, 80¢; New Zealand, 100¢; Hong Kong, 100¢; India, 100¢; Japan, 100¢; South Africa, 100¢; West Indies, 100¢; Caribbean, 100¢; Central America, 100¢; South America, 100¢; Europe, 100¢; Africa, 100¢; Asia, 100¢; Oceania, 100¢; Antarctica, 100¢.

# No witch-hunt of social security claimants

Mr Orme, Minister for Social Security, replied in Glasgow yesterday to Mr Iain Sprou, Conservative MP for Aberdeen, South, who has alleged widespread fraud by welfare claimants. Mr Orme said he was not prepared to countenance a witch-hunt against claimants.

He said that, of 765 letters of complaint forwarded by Mr Sprou, only 16 resulted in the discovery of cases of fraud. He

compared public talk of widespread fraud with the mythical "Killer-Kar".

He added: "One has to keep this within reason. I wish the media and the public would be as concerned about tax evasion and tax fraud and VAT fraud as they are about social security fraud. Last year the Inland Revenue realized more than

£16m through prosecutions.

"What I am not prepared to do is to have a witch-hunt on the welfare state and the DHSS which will only affect millions of people genuinely entitled to benefit."

Of the £10,000m paid out annually, fraud accounted for only £25m, he said, and urged social security claimants to be careful before they made allegations.